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OF

British Parliamentary Papers

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES

1884-86

Colonies General

24

IRISH UNIVERSITY PRESS

SHANNON · IRELAND

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PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS,

REPORTS FOR 1884 AND 1885.

(*In continuation of* [C.-4404.] *of May* 1885.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1885.

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1885.

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JAMAICA.

No. 1.

Governor Sir H. W. NORMAN, K.C.B., C.I.E., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

MY LORD, King's House, April 15, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of Jamaica for the year ending 30th September 1884, and my report thereon.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) H. W. NORMAN,
The Earl of Derby, K.G., Governor.
&c. &c.

Governor Sir HENRY NORMAN'S REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of JAMAICA for 1883–84.

Legislation.

Only two Laws were passed in the year 1883–84, as, pending the completion of the change in the Constitution and the election of the representative members, it was not thought desirable that the Council should proceed to business which could be postponed.

Law 1, the Vote of Credit Law, authorised payments for six months at the rate allowed in the estimates 1882–83, and Law 2, the Ordinary Appropriation Law, passed when it was found that the new Council would not be able to meet in time to pass the estimates for 1883–84.

Finance.

The year under report commenced with a small surplus of 5,176*l.*, which added to the revenue of the year, 473,306*l.*, made a total available to meet expenditure of 478,482*l.*; the expenditure, on the other hand, including 12,939*l.* for sinking funds and 2,600*l.* for redemption of debt, amounted to 460,681*l.* thus showing as the result of the year's transactions a surplus of 17,801*l.* towards the ways and means of the succeeding year.

The appropriated revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, pauper relief, sanitary and other similar local services, and are administered by the several parochial boards, produced in 1883–84 87,981*l.*, being an increase of 2,347*l.* on the year immediately preceding, although less than the receipts in 1881–82.

o 17765. Wt. 5839.

JAMAICA.

The revenue appropriated to immigration services amounted to 18,434*l.* and the expenditure, including introduction of immigrants, to 30,701*l.*, the difference being met from notes given by the employers and from the balance in hand.

The usual comparative table of the whole of the Treasury receipts in the year under report with those of the previous year is given below :—

——	1883–84.	1882–83.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Import duties - - -	251,226	255,318	—	4,092
Export duties - - -	4,377	5,257	—	880
Light dues - - -	1,922	1,839	83	
Harbour master's fees - -	985	1,806	—	821
Rum duties - - -	85,333	101,777	—	16,444
Licenses - - - -	15,347	14,431	916	—
Stamps - - - -	18,463	15,683	2,780	—
Postal revenue - - -	17,033	15,306	1,727	—
Telegraph revenue - -	4,511	3,777	734	—
Court fees - - -	7,081	6,967	114	—
Fines and forfeitures - -	2,650	2,680	—	30
Interest on securities for sinking funds - - - -	6,237	5,592	645	—
Interest on Saving Bank investment after paying depositors - -	2,092	3,144	—	1,052
Interest other than as above -	3,069	2,365	704	—
Jamaica railway revenue - -	27,086	25,839	1,247	—
Reimbursements - - -	16,566	17,469	—	903
Miscellaneous - - -	9,328	12,356	—	3,028
	—	—	8,950	27,250
	473,306	491,606	—	18,300
Revenue specially appropriated.				
Parochial road revenues - -	39,514	39,810	—	296
Kingston street tax - -	2,938	705	2,233	—
Parochial municipal objects -	7,491	7,287	204	—
Poor rates - - - -	28,899	30,440	—	1,541
Sanitary rates - -	4,074	3,651	423	—
Fire rates - - - -	1,463	1,261	202	—
Gas rates - - -	2,580	1,740	840	—
Miscellaneous - - -	1,022	740	282	—
	—	—	4,184	1,837
	87,981	85,634	2,347	—

	1882-83.	1881-82.	Increase.	Decrease.
Immigration Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Export duties - - -	13,328	13,824	—	496
Capitation tax - - -	—	92	—	92
Interest (general) - -	366	624	—	258
Proceeds of planters' notes -	2,657	2,588	69	—
Miscellaneous - - -	2,083	106	1,977	—
	—	—	2,046	846
	18,434	17,234	1,200	—
Total of all revenues - -	579,721	594,474	—	14,753
Receipt on Debt Account Law 19 of 1880 - - - - -	—	41,600	—	41,600
Excess of deposits over withdrawals	35,486	18,121	17,365	—
	—	—	17,365	56,353
	615,207	654,195	—	38,988

The yield of the general revenue was 18,300*l.* less than the yield of the year before, but this is in great measure accounted for by the discontinuance of the additional 10 per cent. on import duties and the additional 3*s.* on the rum duties which ceased on the 22nd November 1883. The decrease under export duties is attributable to the short coffee crop and to less sugar and rum being exported on account of low prices. That under harbour master's fees is to a great extent apparent only, the receipts of 1882–83 having been swollen by a large transfer from the defaulters' account in respect of the previous year's deficiencies; that under Government Savings Bank interest is attributed to ordinary fluctuation, and in regard to that under miscellaneous it must be noticed that 3,200*l.* was included under this head in the year before on account of sums received from recovered lands.

The receipts on account of appropriated revenues show nothing unusual except that the large receipts on account of the Kingston Street tax, are due to the fuller operation of Law 4 of 1883, under which the sources of revenue of that special fund are increased.

The only item calling for special remark under immigration revenues is the increase of 1,977*l.* under miscellaneous, which is chiefly due to the lapsing of a large amount lodged by free coolies to pay for passages.

The following is a similar comparative statement of the Treasury disbursements compared with those in the year immediately preceding:—

	1883–84.	1882–83.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Interest on debt - - -	43,159	43,777	—	618
Pensions - - - -	13,150	13,411	—	261
Administrative departments -	29,858	32,345	—	2,487
Government savings bank- -	2,103	1,917	186	—
Revenue department - -	33,048	32,514	534	—
Postal services - - -	19,298	17,727	1,571	—
Telegraph services - -	3,724	3,707	17	—
Judicial - - - -	34,561	36,266	—	1,705
Ecclesiastical - - -	7,450	7,481	—	31
Medical - - - -	48,504	50,141	—	1,637
Constabulary - - -	49,173	48,669	504	—
Penitentiary and prisons - -	19,723	22,342	—	2,619
Reformatories - - -	4,363	4,654	—	291
Education - - -	25,863	25,064	799	—
Harbour masters - - -	837	816	21	—
Colonial allowance to troops -	4,788	4,417	371	—
Pilotage and Harbour Boards -	741	298	443	—
Miscellaneous - - -	7,748	6,898	850	—
Maintenance of forfeited lands -	3,655	822	2,833	—
Steam communication round the Island - - - - -	2,000	1,833	167	—
Steam communication with America	3,047	3,502	—	455
Public gardens and plantations -	5,388	4,851	537	—
Jamaica Institute - - -	920	927	—	7
Public works - - -	46,719	52,483	—	5,674
Lighthouses - - -	1,437	1,332	105	—
Parochial expenditure - -	2,038	2,059	—	21
International Fisheries exhibition -	90	—	90	—
Subsidy to West India and Panama Telegraph Company - -	2,000	2,000	—	—
Colonization of Immigrants -	7,723	...	7,723	—
Maintenance Jamaica Railway -	12,047	14,112	—	2,065
Registrar-General's Department -	2,924	2,955	—	31
Island Record Office - -	871	941	—	70
Government printing establishment	6,192	7,051	—	859
	—	—	16,751	18,921
	445,142	447,312	—	2,170

	1883–84.	1882–83.	Increase.	Decrease.
Expenditure from appropriated Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Parochial roads - - -	34,534	33,746	788	—
Kingston streets - - -	18	117	—	99
Parochial municipal objects -	12,244	7,299	4,945	—
Relief of the poor - - -	30,498	30,465	33	—
Sanitary appropriation - -	3,923	3,528	395	—
Gas appropriation, Kingston -	2,838	1,885	953	—
Fire appropriation - - -	2,688	1,301	1,387	—
	—	—	8,501	99
	86,743	78,341	8,402	—
General expenditure - -	445,142	447,312	—	2,170
Expenditure from appropriated revenue - - -	86,743	78,341	8,402	—
Immigration revenues - -	30,700	23,341	7,359	—
	—	—	15,761	2,170
	562,585	548,994	13,591	—
Expenditure out of Loans raised for the purpose.				
Jamaica railway - - -	141,160	179,606	—	38,446
Jamaica telegraphs - -	188	414	—	226
Portland bridges - - -	—	13	—	13
	—	—	13,591	38,685
	703,933	729,027	—	25,094
Disbursements other than Expenditure.				
Sinking funds - - -	12,939	13,648	—	709
Redemption of debt - -	2,600	3,100	—	500
Grand total - -	719,472	745,775	—	26,303

The general expenditure shows a net decrease of 2,170*l.* on the amount of the year before, principally under interest on debt due to the reduction of debt, under administrative departments, judicial, medical and prisons, due to reductions of staff, lapsed salaries, and general economy ; under public works owing to less work having been undertaken, under railway in consequence of the unusual expenditure in the year before for the purchase of materials, and under Government printing establishment to the same cause, and to less printing having been done. On the other hand, there are increases under postal services due to the adjustment of the account of the Postal Union contribution, under maintenance of forfeited lands, owing to the investment of the sums formerly received on this account and which had been treated as revenue, and under colonization of immigrants as owing to

the exhaustion of the old Colonization Fund the charges on this account are now borne by general revenue.

The expenditure from appropriated revenues is 8,402*l.* in excess of that of the year before, but as the expenditure is in the hands of the several parochial boards and is regulated by the amounts available it hardly calls for any special remarks.

The immigration expenditure is also 7,359*l.* more than that of 1882-83, which is due to a larger number of immigrants having been imported and to the Chinese immigrants having to be paid for at a much higher figure.

Pensions.

During the year 12 pensions, amounting in all to 740*l.*, were granted on the principles of the Imperial Superannuation Acts and Treasury Rules.

The pension list has been, on the other hand, relieved by the death of 12 pensioners, who drew 1,514*l.*

Debt.

No fresh debt was incurred during the year, as, pending the meeting of the newly constituted Legislative Council, it was not thought advisable that any legislative authority should be given for the raising of the further amounts required for expenditure on account of the railway extensions. The Crown Agents in the meantime obtained temporary advances at a low rate of interest to meet this expenditure, such advances at the close of the year amounting to 92,000*l.*

2,600*l.* of debt under the old immigration loans was paid off as well as 1,000*l.* on account of the loan under the 27 Vict. c. 37. for repairing public and parochial buildings, met from sinking funds invested, and 300*l.* of the old Kingston streets reconstruction loan under 28 Vict. c. 24., met from the special sources of revenue applicable to the Kingston streets.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenue has stood as follows on the 30th September in each of the last 10 years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1875 - - -	548,024	3	7
1876 - - -	501,413	8	5
1877 - - -	485,107	11	5
1878 - - -	641,644	10	9
1879 - - -	718,608	11	11
1880 - - -	721,481	6	8
1881 - - -	920,924	19	4
1882 - - -	1,238,750	0	0
1883 - - -	1,257,916	2	1
1884 - - -	1,243,899	18	9

The reduction in the amount for the year under report is due to the payment of debt above referred to, and to the reduction in the net amount due under the guaranteed loan under Law 39 of 1869 in consequence of further investments of sinking funds and accrued interest thereon.

The amount of debenture debt due by the several undertakings named below stood as under on the 30th September last :—

	£
Rio Cobre irrigation - - -	126,500
Kingston and Liguanea waterworks - -	118,200
Kingston markets - - - -	20,000
Kingston gasworks - - - -	30,000
Kingston slaughter-house - - -	10,000

In none of these cases has it yet been found practicable to make from the special revenues any provision for the repayment of capital, although in the case of the Kingston and Liguanea waterworks there is now a balance of some 3,000*l.* at credit which will soon render possible some reduction in the amount of the debt; while in regard to the Rio Cobre irrigation loan, the general revenue was called upon under its guarantee to pay the sum of 5,108*l.* during the year as the deficiency on receipts against interest on loan and working expenses of the canal. Considerable relief to the revenues of these undertakings has, however, been afforded by the consolidation of a portion of their debentures, at a reduced rate of interest, in the general loan under Law 19 of 1880.

Legislative Council.

No appointments were made to vacancies caused by the resignation last year of the un-official members in view of the contemplated change in the constitution and the election of representative members.

The council as composed of official members met, under the express sanction of the Secretary of State, on the 14th January and adjourned on the 23rd January. At this meeting a vote of credit for six months based on the estimates of 1882-83 was passed, and on the 18th April as the Order in Council for a new constitution had not been received, the estimates for 1883-84 were presented and passed as a whole by the council composed of official members.

The Order of the Queen in Council of 19th May 1884 re-constituting the Legislative Council to consist of four ex-officio and five nominated members and nine elected members was received on the 19th of June 1884, and as soon as the necessary arrangements for the registration and revision of the lists of electors had been made, the Governor's writs for the elections were issued. Such elections took place in September and resulted in the return of the under-mentioned gentlemen :—

JAMAICA.

Hon. C. S. Farquharson for Westmoreland and Hanover, Hon. E. G. Barrett for St. James and Trelawny, Hon. J. M. Farquharson for St. Elizabeth, Hon. G. Henderson for St. Thomas and Portland, Hon. Robert Craig for Clarendon, Hon. E. J. Levy for St. Catherine, Hon. W. Malabre for Kingston and St. Andrew, Hon. J. T. Palache for Manchester, Hon. M. Solomon, for St. Mary and St. Ann. For the present only two nominated members, the Superintending Medical Officer, and the Inspector of Schools, have been appointed.

The new Council met for the first time on the 29th September 1884.

Civil Establishment.

General Sir Henry Wylie Norman, K.C.B., C.I.E., was appointed Governor of Jamaica in October 1883, and arrived in December following, relieving Major-General Gamble, who had been administering the government since the departure of Sir Anthony Musgrave.

Sir Adam Ellis, Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of Mauritius, was appointed in November 1883 to be Chief Justice of Jamaica in the room of the late Sir J. Lucie Smith, and arrived in the Island in January 1884.

The Hon. A. H. Alexander, protector of immigrants in this Colony, was appointed Agent-General of Immigration of British Guiana, and relinquished his office in Jamaica on the 25th February, being succeeded by Mr. L. R. Fyfe, whom the Governor had appointed provisionally. The Secretary of State, however, appointed Mr. P. Cork protector of immigrants in Grenada to the vacancy.

Mr. James Allwood was confirmed in July 1884 in the office of Assistant Colonial Secretary, to which he had been appointed provisionally in June 1883.

Public Works.

From the report of the Director of Public Works it appears that the main roads and bridges were generally in very fair order at the close of the year. The expenditure during the year was:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For maintenance and repair - -	24,594	17	0
New works - - - -	2,221	5	3
	26,816	2	3

The cost of maintenance of main roads and bridges per mile was 32*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*, the average of the five previous years having been 33*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

The expenditure under all heads of the Public Works Department (excluding railways) was 57,462*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*

The sum of 30,645*l.* 18*s.* included in the above amount was expended in miscellaneous repairs of public buildings, the construc-

tion of some new works, expenses in connexion with lands, the Rio Cobre canal works, &c., and it also includes 8,376*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* for salaries of the Department and 444*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* for rents and office contingencies.

The following are among the more important of the new works carried out by the Department during the year:—

Further restoring of bridges on the New Castle road, so that the main road from Gordon Town to the military cantonment is now fully provided with bridges.

The Plantain Garden River having in 1883 carried away the main road at Bachelor's Hall a deviation of the road became necessary and was completed early in the year: the road is now beyond the reach of flood.

The wooden bridge over Jack's Gully in Clarendon was destroyed by fire in April 1884, and has been renewed in iron and concrete, and at the end of the year was nearly completed.

The total expenditure for maintenance of public buildings was 6,344*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* and 4,842*l.* 2s. 11*d.* on new works.

Public Buildings.

A few of the more important items of expenditure on the repair of the existing public buildings or the erection of new buildings are given below.

A new roof to the church at Bath has been erected.

The buildings at the bath of St. Thomas the Apostle have been put into efficient repair; extensive repairs and alterations have been made to several of the police stations. A new kitchen has been provided at the general penitentiary, and the old and inconvenient kitchen will shortly be pulled down. The wharf at the Government workyard has been repaired and extended into deeper water and is now available for nearly all steamers calling at this port. Several new works for parochial boards have been undertaken by the Public Works Department during the year.

The works in connexion with the Spanish Town waterworks have continued under the management of the Public Works Department, the total cost of their maintenance and management for the year being 303*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

The gross revenue has been 1,182*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*; the net revenue of 879*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* gives a return of nearly 10 per cent. on the total capital expenditure 8,696*l.*

Lands.

During the year properties, comprising in all 298 acres, have been recovered by the Crown from squatters under the 184th section of the District Courts Law and have been leased according to the provisions of the Law.

Rio Cobre Canal.

The headworks and canals have been maintained in fair order throughout the year at a cost of 1,381*l.* 6*s.* the cost being less by 181*l.* 4*s.* than the amount allowed for the service.

JAMAICA.

The revenue earned during the year was 2,366*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* and the amount collected was 2,216*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* The arrears for water supplied to 30th June last amounted on 1st October last to 387*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* During the year 2,500 cocoanuts were planted on the lands of the canal, and several fruit trees, but the exceptionally dry weather experienced during the year was not favourable for planting. With reference to an opinion which has been expressed, that land owners are not afforded proper facilities by the Government, the district engineer remarks: "I have spared "no effort to induce proprietors to take water. I have acceded "to every request for advice or for levels for main channels "without making any charge, and in this way most of the "proprietors have availed themselves of my services to a considerable extent. In other ways great facilities have been granted; "consumers have been given their supplies in any way they "fancied would suit them best, a constant supply day and night, "a double supply every alternate week, water delivered at one "point in one day, and at another on the next; in fact, they "had only to indicate what they desired, and, if possible, it was "done."

Inland Telegraph.

The working of this department continued to be satisfactory during the year. The gross receipts in 1883-84 were 4,512*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, being 734*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* in excess of the receipts in 1882-83, and 512*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* in excess of the estimates for the year.

The total number of messages sent and received during the year was 80,544, and exceeded the number in the previous year by 13,014.

The revenue earned was more than sufficient to cover the disbursements of the year for working expenses, which amounted to 3,724*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*

Three new telegraph stations have been opened during the year—at Up Park Camp, Claremont, and Oracahessa—thus making the total number of stations open for business 41.

Railways.

The existing line of railway runs from Kingston to Old Harbour by way of Spanish Town, a distance of 24 miles in one direction, and a small branch from Spanish Town to Angels in the other direction.

2. From the report of the manager it appears that the result of the working of the line for the year has been satisfactory, the net revenue being 14,285*l.*, the largest net revenue ever raised from the railway, giving an equivalent of 7⅔ per cent. on the capital invested in its purchase.

3. In passenger receipts there has been a considerable increase, notably in the number of third-class passengers, but in goods traffic a decrease; this latter fact is attributed partly to the lowering of freight rates, to the diversion of a good deal of the

Manchester fruit trade to the port of Milk River, where fruit steamers now call regularly.

4. The extension lines to Porus and to Ewarton respectively will be open shortly, and as a comparison of the railway receipts could not conveniently be made at the end of the next financial year, when a new state of things will have arisen, the present time seems opportune to review the working of the line since Government took it over 5½ years ago, and the following statement affords the material for retrospect:—

Receipts.	1883–84.	1882–83.	1881–82.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Goods and cattle - -	12,198 12 11	13,207 10 8	15,697 0 6
Passengers and parcels -	11,678 4 3	10,314 12 2	9,530 16 10
Miscellaneous - -	1,203 12 10	317 4 9	94 1 5
Wharf - - -	1,938 7 0	1,805 15 0	693 4 2
Total	27,018 7 0	25,645 2 7	25,015 2 11
Expenditure (excluding wharf as usual) -	11,969 8 7	11,693 18 2	12,804 11 0
Per-centage of working expenses (of line to revenue of line) -	47·72	49·05	50·56

(*continued*).

Receipts.	1880–81.	1879–80.	Six months of 1878–79.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Goods and cattle - -	13,060 9 0	15,811 18 2	6,309 16 10
Passengers and parcels -	8,848 2 9	10,122 14 6	4,495 13 0
Miscellaneous - -	99 19 6	153 4 3	343 7 9
Wharf - - -	704 10 11	936 2 9	166 14 7
Total - -	22,713 2 2	27,024 9 8	11,315 12 2
Expenditure (excluding wharf as usual) -	12,393 11 9	15,144 13 8	—
Per-centage of working expenses (of line to revenue of line) -	56·30	58·07	62·85

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5. As regards the extension lines, the chief resident engineer in reporting upon their progress at the end of the financial year, said, as regards the Porus line, that the contractors gave an assurance that this line would be finished in contract time, *i.e.*, in December 1884, but his own opinion was that it would not be completed before the end of February 1885, and this line was in fact opened by me on the 26th February and traffic thereon commenced on the 2nd March. With respect to the Ewarton line, Mr. Bell reports that it cannot be finished within the contract time and that the contractors had intimated that it would be finished by the end of April. His own opinion is that there is no likelihood of any portion of it being ready before that date.

District Courts.

The business transacted in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following summary :—

—	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Criminal trials -	3,545	3,862	3,707	4,054	3,319	3,197	4,372	3,279	3,870	3,510
Small causes -	8,531	9,446	9,212	9,616	7,704	7,652	7,779	6,907	4,638	3,696
Judgment summonses - -	1,511	1,736	1,670	1,579	1,592	1,692	1,514	1,304	836	566
Equity cases -	5	6	8	21	20	15	19	14	20	21
Cases under Land Law - -	133	309	222	163	104	126	159	78	66	103
Bankruptcy cases	4	13	17	5	1	8	1	6	4	4
Probate cases -	39	62	93	94	102	109	147	131	123	125
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount claimed -	52,093	56,490	60,894	63,300	51,510	47,408	54,736	45,735	33,236	28,012
Judgment obtained	26,048	27,970	30,976	32,348	28,479	34,056	30,747	26,946	19,718	16,411
Costs - - -	5,812	4,952	5,531	5,626	4,952	4,957	5,351	4,496	3,735	3,381
Court fees - -	4,994	5,597	5,436	5,491	4,757	4,484	4,588	4,073	3,708	3,525

There were 18 appeals from the judgments of these courts, 14 being in civil and four in criminal cases; in three cases judgment was reversed, one case was referred back, in two the judgment was set aside, six appeals were dismissed, one case was nonsuited by consent, two were allowed and remitted back, in three cases the judgment of the district courts was affirmed.

Botanical Department.

The interesting operations of this department form the subject of a lengthy report from the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations. From it may be condensed the result, of the year's working, but for a proper appreciation of the various opportunities of the department of which such good use is made, it will be desirable to peruse the report, which appears, as is usual, in the supplement to the Jamaica Gazette, of the 15th January 1885.

The rainfall of the year fell much below the average in all the gardens and plantations, except Castleton in St. Mary's parish, and necessarily exercised a restriction on planting operations, both

at those places and generally throughout the Island in so far as the propagation of plants from the Gardens was concerned. In spite of this, however, the distribution of plants (with the single exception of cinchona) has shown a marked increase. This is attributed to the large extent to which the coasting steamer is rendered useful, as the Director says, "in the interest of those "persons in remote portions of the Island formerly beyond reach "of the public gardens."

Without going into detail, it may be stated that the actual number of seedlings and plants distributed during the year was 56,950 seedlings and 117,280 plants. Besides these a large quantity of seed and 1,000 cocoanuts for planting were distributed.

The interest taken in the department both in the Colony and outside continues, contributions of seed and of plants being received from private individuals and foreign establishments, and regular correspondence and exchanges have been fully maintained.

In the operations at the Castleton Gardens it is noticed with interest that 50 olive trees planted out there during the year are doing well. These formed part of an importation for experiment of 200 plants which have been distributed in various parts of the Island.

At the cinchona plantation field operations have been confined to the improvement of the area already under cultivation, and, with the exception of a small patch for Calisaya Verde, no new land has been cleared. This Calisaya Verde has the appearance, it is said, of being a true Calisaya, nearly allied to Cinchona Ledgeriana. Numerous plants and timber trees of economic value for ornamental uses have been set out and are thriving in the temperate climate of the hills.

An interesting experiment in mossing trees of Cinchona Succirubra is under trial at the Lower Buzza plantation, all the trees barked this year being covered with club moss (Lycopodium clavatum). "The method (writes the superintendent) was in the "form of ropes well twisted, and continuously wound round the "tree, being at last securely fastened at the top."

The total quantity of bark harvested during the year amounted to 13,067 lbs., consisting principally of succirubra shavings and bark of prunings from the several divisions of the plantations; this on being dried for shipment was reduced to 7,398 lbs.

A reduction has taken place in the cultivation of jalap, and its place taken by tea plants of the China variety.

Parade Garden, Kingston.

The Director reports of this garden that "at the close of the "year the garden was throughout in good order, and the cool, "grateful shade afforded by its wide spreading trees was appre-"ciated by hundreds of persons who otherwise would be without "any means of escaping, if only for a time, the heat, the dust, and "the glare of a tropical city."

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Hope Plantation and Nurseries.

These nurseries are used principally for the supply of economic plants for the plains, and a special object of culture at the plantation are new varieties of sugar cane obtained from the East Indies, the Pacific Islands, and the southern States of America. The gardens are reported to be fully carrying out the objects contemplated when they were established.

Palisadoes Plantation.

The number of established cocoanut trees is estimated at 23,000, of which, however only about 5,000 are now in bearing The crop gathered last year was 30,000 nuts. This very small return is attributed chiefly to the severe drought experienced for the last three years.

The gardens and grounds attached to the King's House or Governor's residence are also under the care of this department, with a European gardener in charge. No new works of importance were carried out here during the year under report.

Only a small sum 14*l.*, was expended during the year on the Bath Garden in the parish of St. Thomas, and that only for the purpose of repairing fences and weeding. As the rare trees in this garden have now been established in the more accessible localities of Hope and Castleton it is not now of much importance.

Education.

The following is a comparative summary of the work of the Educational Department for the past five years:—

Year.	Schools on Government List.	Schools passed at inspection.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in average attendance.	Per-centage in average attendance of number on Books.	Class of School.					Fees collected.	Grants in aid including Building Grants 1,500*l.* each year.
						I.	II.	III.*	E.	F.†		
											£	
1880 -	681	662	56,382	32,871	58·3	70	238	337	17	19	6,763	20,493
1881 -	687	601	48,960	26,649	54·4	52	195	343	11	86	5,381	17,547
1882 -	677	627	53,366	29,894	56·	47	164	354·16	7	50	4,783	18,225
1882-83	668	645	56,312	32,203	57·2	57	212	315·61	10	23	6,479	19,254
1883-84	703	663	57,289	33,215	58·	60	215	333·51	4	46	7,143	20,353
Incr. since last year	35	18	977	1,012	·8	13	3	18·10	−6	17	664	1,099
Incr. since 1880	22	1	907	344	−·3	−10	−23	−47	−13	21	380	—

* These Schools had one third of the class grant deducted for failure in arithmetic.
† Includes schools closed at time of inspection or aided with building grant, but not yet open.

The result of the year 1883–84 is regarded by the Inspector as to be exceedingly satisfactory, and this conclusion is borne out by the figures given above, which show, for the first time since the year 1880, that the number of schools inspected and passed, the number of scholars on the books and in average attendance, and the amount of fees collected, have been much the same as the record of that year, which was a very satisfactory one.

A decrease in fraudulent dealings with registers and more care taken in keeping them is mentioned as prevailing this year on the part of teachers.

The question of the remuneration of the teachers of elementary schools, which has been the cause of some controversy, is fairly discussed by the Chief Inspector. His opinion is that these teachers are not as a rule underpaid, apart from the question of the competency of most of them. It follows, of course, that the more capable the man the larger will be his income. There are also opportunities open to industrious, willing men in leisure time considerably to augment their earnings by congenial employment, less than half the days in the year being with them working days.

More attention it seems is now being given to the training of pupil teachers, but there is still great room for improvement.

A fairly representative educational exhibit was sent to the New Orleans Exhibition in the shape of specimens of copy books and other school work, and 15 prizes were awarded.

Very encouraging success is reported as attending the establishment of adult and juvenile reading clubs, and the Chief Inspector expresses himself as satisfied that the existence of these clubs will have a marked effect upon the schools and even more upon the children leaving school, who will have an incentive which has hitherto been wanting to keep up their acquirements in reading, and to extend their general knowledge. The very restricted circulation of literature suited to the capacities and tastes of the humbler classes has been, and still is, a bar to the spread of general useful information on matters and things outside their little world.

There has been an increase in teachers' associations. More active exertion and union must be of benefit to the teachers and to the cause of education.

Steps have been taken during the year for the establishment of a female training college, and a vote of 1,000*l.* has been placed on the estimates for the purpose. This will supply a long recognised want in the Colony, as I pointed out in my last year's report.

It is gratifying to receive from Mr. Plummer, one of the assistant inspectors, who is a native of the Colony, the following testimony to the spread of education in Jamaica. He says, in his report of his inspection during the year "'There is a very erroneous opinion "abroad that no real substantial progress in the education of the "masses has been made. My opportunities of comparing the "present with the past enable me to say most emphatically that "a very marked and gratifying progress has been made generally

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" and especially within my district." Mr. Plummer's district comprises the large parishes of St. Catherine and Clarendon and parts of St. Andrew and St. Ann.

Immigration.

No East Indian immigrants arrived during the year in consequence of the applications having been made at too late a period for the people to be collected and despatched before the close of Indian emigration season.

The Secretary of State, however, to lessen the inconvenience which this failure of supply might cause, and at the urgent request of the West India Committee, made direct to his Lordship, sanctioned a proposal that Hong Kong should be named as a port from which immigration into this Colony should be permitted. Applications were in due course received for 1,157 Chinese, and orders for this number were sent on, the Hon. Mr. Ryrie, a member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, having been appointed to act as Emigration Agent.

The first instalment of these Chinese, 680 in number, arrived in the steamer " Prince Alexander " on the 12th July last, and after examination by the medical board—when 29 men were rejected as wholly or partially incapable of agricultural labour—were allotted to estates in the parish of St. Thomas, St. Mary, Portland, St. Andrew, St. Catherine, and Westmoreland.

At first considerable difficulty was experienced, as the Chinese proved very untractable and preferred exorbitant demands for wages, which were in excess of the agreement with them and could not be complied with. By degrees, however, they have for the most part settled down to work; but for several reasons the applicants for these immigrants did not desire to have a full compliance with their original requisitions and the order for the remainder of them was therefore countermanded.

Much difficulty has also been experienced in inducing the Chinese to preserve the peace amongst themselves, those who arrived being of different races, viz. the Punti or " Indwellers " of " Kwangtung " and the " Hakka " or " Strangers," between whom there have been more than two centuries of hatred and feud.

The East Indian immigrants who arrived in the " Woodhouse," " Duke of Argyle," and " Loch Lomond " in 1874 became entitled to return passages to India during the year, but no less than 1,000 commuted their right thereto and received the usual bounty. The large exodus of the native labouring population to Colon and the consequent increase in the rates paid for labour on the sugar estates no doubt considerably influenced the immigrants in this decision to remain. A considerable number of the time-expired immigrants themselves also went to the isthmus.

Seventy eight immigrants were sent to Demerara by Royal mail steamer for return passage to India by the " Ellora," and a few who could not obtain passages this year on account of want

of space on the "Ellora" have registered their names for the next return ship. These immigrants took with them 1,189*l.* in treasury bills, besides gold coins and a quantity of jewellery.

The mortality during the year has been as under:—

	1883–84.	1882–83.
East Indians - - -	2·42	2·25
Chinese - - - -	·59	—
As against a birth rate of:—		
East Indians - - -	2·97	1·82
Chinese - - - -	·29	—

One East Indian was murdered during the year by two others, who were convicted and sentenced to be executed. One was executed, but the other (a woman) was reprieved.

Applications were received during the year for over 1,400 East Indians to arrive during the next season, but the number has since been reduced to 550, on account of the restriction of cultivation on sugar estates. Advices have been received that the ship "Hereford" has been chartered to bring this number.

A joint immigration agency has been established in Calcutta for Jamaica and Fiji, and Mr. Allen C. Stewart appointed as agent. It is expected that by this arrangement increased efficiency in the service will be obtained.

The immigrants who arrived in the "Chetah" in 1879, have with the exception of 27 completed their five years of industrial residence and received certificates accordingly. These immigrants have been informed that they will not be entitled to claim bounty in lieu of return passages at the end of their 10 years' residence in the Colony, no such provision being included in the amended immigration scheme applicable to all coolies introduced after 1878.

The Immigration Fund at 30th September 1884, had 9,872*l.* at credit which is very satisfactory as the substitution of Chinese for East Indian immigrants entailed an unexpectedly heavy outlay on the fund. There is also 9,338*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* at credit of the Return Passage Fund applicable to immigrants introduced since 1879.

There are now 12,847 East Indian immigrants in the Island, of whom 9,741 have completed a 10 years' residence.

Emigration.

The exodus of the labouring population to the Isthmus of Panama, where they are attracted by the high rates of wages offered for work on the canal has continued during the year. It has been reported that 24,301 persons left and 11,600 returned to the Island. It seems now a regular course for the men after earning a fair amount to return to Jamaica to visit their families and friends, and after a short time to return to the Isthmus to work again.

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So large a reduction in the number of the labouring population has of course affected the labour market here, and with the low prices of sugar at one time rendered the continuance of work on some of the sugar estates a matter of difficulty.

The savings of these labourers are, however, to a considerable extent remitted or brought to Jamaica for investment in the Government Savings Bank or in the purchase of land, so that it does not seem unreasonable to conclude that when the demand for labour on the Isthmus ceases, many of them will return to settle down here industrious citizens and small proprietors.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in this bank for the last 10 years are shown below :—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1875	5,061	228,028
1876	5,431	243,171
1877	5,756	253,983
1878	6,002	273,620
1879	6,341	294,589
1880	7,297	333,970
1881	7,970	342,339
1882	9,543	324,847
1883	11,925	325,705
1884	13,602	350,546

Thus showing a continuance of the almost unbroken increase which has year by year marked the progress of the bank.

In the above amount of deposits are included five deposit accounts for the following public funds.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Immigration return passage fund -	9,338	11	10
Constabulary reward fund - -	812	3	8
Sinking funds - - - -	3,814	8	1
Constabulary Pension fund - -	318	9	3
Smith and Beckford's charity - -	1,166	10	1

There were also 217 accounts for trusts, charities, chancery suits, administration, general, and bankrupt estates amounting to a total deposit of 35,390*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* The remaining 12,380 accounts representing 299,616*l.*, are all ordinary savings bank accounts.

Of the total number of accounts open at the close of the year only 859 exceeded 100*l.* in amount, while 7,788 were under 5*l.* Of the deposits at 30th September last 20,061*l.* were invested in Three per Cent. Consols, 261,566*l.* were in Canadian and Colonial Securities other than those of Jamaica, 1,980*l.* were applied to the discounting of notes of employers to meet the cost of introduction of indentured immigrants, and 66,939*l.* was the Treasury debt to the bank.

During the year 4,827 accounts were opened and 3,168 accounts were closed, and the transactions were represented by 30,332 deposits, amounting to 196,913*l.*, and 23,939 withdrawals, of 181,485*l.*

No new sub-branches were opened during the year, but a considerable increase took place in the use of the conveniences of withdrawing deposits by telegraphic notice, and of making investments by means of psotage stamps.

The results of opening the bank on Saturday nights in Kingston for the convenience of persons who cannot attend in the day time have also been satisfactory.

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to 11,547*l.* against a revenue from investments of deposits amounting to 11,517*l.* thus throwing a small loss on the year's transactions of 30*l.* This loss arose in consequence of so large a sum of 66,939*l.* of the bank's money remaining uninvested in the hands of the Government. At the date of writing, however, a sum of 50,000*l.* has been remitted to England for investment on account of the bank.

Trade.

The value of the imports in each of the last 10 years has been as follows :—

	£		£
1874–75	1,759,942	1879–80	- 1,475,197
1875–76	- 1,700,254	1880–81	- 1,392,699
1876–77	- 1,552,339	1881–82	1,321,962
1877–78	- 1,492,722	1882–83	- 1,625,411
1878–79	- 1,347,342	1883–84	- 1,568,639

The value in the year under report, though somewhat less than the amount in the year immediately preceding, when the total was unduly swelled by importations to replace stocks destroyed in the fire of December 1882 shows a satisfactory increase over each of the six previous years. The decreases as compared with 1882–83, have been principally under the heads of candles (369*l.*); fish, alewives, and mackerel (5,159*l.*); flour (5,528*l.*); gunpowder (859*l.*); lard (572*l.*); meal (1,554*l.*); peas (662*l.*); rice (10,302*l.*); wood (20,992*l.*). While there have been increases under malt liquors (5,929*l.*); beef, wet, salted (1,982*l.*); cheese (1,380*l.*); corn (1,000*l.*); fish, dried, salted (13,110*l.*); herrings, pickled (7,949*l.*); pork, wet, salted (1,609); soap (2,807*l.*). The changes may, however, be more conveniently classified as a net increase of 15,900*l.* on fish stuffs, 4,862*l.* on salted and cured meats, and 1,380*l.* on cheese, while there was a net decrease of 11,768*l.* on farinaceous foods and 572*l.* on lard. The decrease on farinaceous foods is to be accounted for by increased production of esculents, an impetus having been given to this branch of cultivation by the large demand existing on the Isthmus of Panama. The increase in the imports of dried fish may be attributed to increased consumption and that of salted and cured meats to a desire and taste on the part of the peasantry for a better description of food, together, and speaking generally, with a better ability to pay for it, because, concurrently with the increase noted there has also been a consider-

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able increase in the number of cattle slaughtered for consumption. The total imports entered for island consumption were drawn from the several countries in the following proportions: United Kingdom 58·1, United States of America 27·2, Dominion of Canada 11·3, other countries 3·4.

The following table, showing the value of the articles imported which were freed from duty in 1867, is given in continuation of similar tables in previous reports:—

—	1874–75.	1875–76.	1876–77.	1877–78.	1878–79.	1879–80.	1880–81.	1881–82.	1882–83.	1883–84.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines -	18,152	15,360	14,735	8,857	7,306	2,802	20,709	10,380	14,199	12,604
Mills - -	5,803	5,128	1,643	2,115	5,724	2,661	1,702	2,203	1,563	2,516
Other machinery -	11,331	2,434	11,443	3,113	3,402	3,323	5,075	3,260	5,324	6,618
Pans for boiling sugar.	3,649	1,318	2,134	2,483	2,124	6,132	1,190	809	2,025	1,067
Pipes for fluids -	1,830	1,955	3,755	2,095	1,193	1,435	1,534	2,600	3,512	4,358
Stills - -	6,848	3,153	1,619	1,880	433	696	5,217	1,777	1,489	312
Shooks for all sorts	20,299	15,845	14,545	11,761	7,460	8,488	4,370	12,424	13,724	13,520
Staves - -	21,650	11,816	19,503	6,040	4,524	10,519	3,299	10,645	6,148	10,590
Wood hoops -	2,192	1,609	1,447	2,066	1,643	1,919	756	1,932	1,923	1,047
Iron, galvanized -	5,746	4,533	3,259	2,229	2,097	974	5,156	3,595	9,469	8,649
„ other manufactures.	—	5	—	381	—	1,344	4,964	14	433	1,109
Miscellaneous -	3,050	3,872	5,651	3,730	4,892	4,592	7,443	5,015	7,118	5,242
	100,550	67,028	79,734	46,750	40,798	64,885	61,415	54,654	66,927	67,632

These figures do not call for any special remarks, except that the figures given last year on account of the import of steam engines has been found on further examination to have been incorrect and the correct amount has been now inserted. The continued increase under galvanized iron is due to the large amount of that material now imported for roofing purposes.

The value of the exports in each of the last 10 years is shown below:—

—	Of Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
1874–75 - -	1,359,868	50,616	1,410,484
1875–76 - -	1,440,131	76,884	1,517,015
1876–77 - -	1,419,625	39,004	1,458,669
1877–78 - -	1,165,145	35,560	1,210,705
1878–79 - -	1,262,869	94,702	1,357,571
1879–80 - -	1,427,144	85,834	1,512,978
1880–81 - -	1,104,407	74,187	1,178,594
1881–82 - -	1,471,917	77,141	1,549,058
1882–83 - -	1,365,868	103,578	1,469,446
1883–84 - -	1,350,900	133,089	1,483,989

being 14,543*l.* in excess of the aggregate of the exports of the year immediately preceding and 56,470 in advance of the average of the four previous years, a result which, when considered in conjunction with the very depressed condition of the sugar market, the short coffee crop, and the reduced value of pimento, must, as the Collector-General points out, be accepted as astonishing evidence of the increased development of the minor industries of the Colony, the increase in the value of the latter being nearly sufficient to counterbalance the diminished value of sugar, rum, coffee, and pimento put together.

The principal articles which show an increase are dyewoods (39,948*l.*), fruit (125,964*l.*), annotto (1,823*l.*), beeswax (1,940*l.*) cocoa (3,917*l.*), cinchona bark (1,788*l.*), ginger (4,761*l.*), hides (2,268*l.*), honey (1,307*l.*), walking sticks (1,553*l.*), horses and mules (1,593*l.*), yams and other esculents (7,239*l.*). While there, have been material decreases under sugar (123,189*l.*), rum, although the quantity was slightly larger (5,350*l.*), pimento (9,882*l.*), lancewood spars (1,186*l.*), lime juice (3,292*l.*), tobacco leaf (696*l.*), turtle (672*l.*),

The values of the several articles of island produce bear the following relative proportions to the total export value :—

—	1883–84.	1882–83.	1881–82.	1880–81.
Sugar -	32	40	41·73	30·5
Rum - - -	16	16	20·08	15·7
Coffee - - -	7	12	9·07	20·9
Logwood -	10	8	6·24	11·9
Fruit - - -	20	11	8·44	4·
Pimento - -	6	7	7·66	8·
Others - - -	9	6	6·78	9·

Thus showing no remarkable change except in the items of sugar, in which there has been a large decrease since 1882–83 and 1881–82 and fruit, which is rapidly increasing.

The export of the principal staples for the last 10 years is shown in the following table :—

—	1874–75.	1875–76.	1876–77.	1877–78.	1878–79.
Sugar - - hhds.	27,847	29,074	30,569	26,066	29,151
Rum - - phns.	21,359	22,048	20,648	18,115	18,792
Coffee - - lbs.	7,136,307	8,649,049	9,532,887	9,411,662	10,832,127
Pimento - - lbs.	6,440,040	4,474,690	6,670,603	6,195,109	5,881,176
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	84,523	77,229	47,697	36,070	58,658
Ginger - - lbs.	1,490,845	1,613,764	1,097,863	908,603	769,636
Arrowroot - lbs.	21,983	21,152	3,514	4,599	7,982
Fruit, value - £	20,526	22,350	39,451	40,175	51,295

(*continued*)

—	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
Sugar - - hhds.	32,117	21,056	38,392	30,783	29,427
Rum - - phns.	18,586	13,952	22,742	20,085	20,364
Coffee - - lbs.	10,188,897	9,846,096	7,418,638	9,448,100	4,295,994
Pimento - - lbs.	10,215,479	6,058,264	8,514,517	9,551,630	12,372,863
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	48,024	45,459	33,409	33,108	46,724
Ginger - - lbs.	889,847	751,494	608,384	836,889	1,359,321
Arrowroot - lbs.	4,480	1,888	5,116	2,515	3,655
Fruit, value - £	51,295	44,216	124,269	132,962	253,021

The decrease in the exports of sugar is doubtless due to the present low price of that staple ; the decrease in coffee is attributed partly to fluctuation in yield and to decrease in the cultivation. Rum shows a slight increase in quantity, though the value is less. Dyewoods show a better return than for the last three years, due to the fact that the roots of the trees which were previously felled for the sake of their trunks and matured branches are now in much demand, it having been found that the dyeing properties of the roots are of superior power. The very large increase in the trade in fruit is a most pleasing feature in the above return, it having almost doubled the figures of the year before, while it is reported that the increase would have been even greater had it not been for the failure of an important fruit firm in America which somewhat paralysed business towards the close of the year.

The exports from the Colony during the past five years were distributed in the following proportions :—

—	1878-79.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.
United Kingdom -	73·26	67·3	66·5	62·5	54·46	43·4
Dominion of Canada -	1·05	5·2	6·2	12·9	16·66	13·4
United States -	15·00	20·1	18·9	17·8	19·07	31·1
Other Countries -	10·69	7·4	8·4	6·8	6·81	12·1

The great increase in the trade to the United States is traceable mainly to the fruit trade.

As the question of our trade with Canada and the United States is of more than usual interest at the present time on account of the proposed Reciprocity Treaty and the recent question of annexation to Canada ; it may be well to analyse the foregoing figures. In regard to the United States it will be found that the value of our exports of Island produce amounted to 433,312*l.*, of which amount fruit, including cocoanuts, contributed 264,380*l.*, or 61 per cent. ; sugar 88,873*l.*, or 20 per cent. ; coffee 39,555*l.*, or 9 per cent. ; ginger, 11,247*l.*, or 2 per cent. ; pimento 15,552*l.*, or 3

per cent., and all other items 23,705*l.*, or five per cent. While in regard to Canada the export is almost exclusively confined to the one article of sugar, the export of which amounted to 184,064*l.*, or more than two fifths of the total value exported.

Agriculture.

It is estimated that Jamaica contains 2,683,520 acres, from which may fairly be deducted as useless for agriculture 365,828 acres, consisting chiefly of swamps, rocks, and inaccessible lands.

The returns of the present year (1883–84) show that the land tax was paid on 1,927,901 acres against 1,925,957 acres for the previous year. For the three years before the collections were respectively on 1,977,987, 1,805,895, and 1,918,773 acres, or an average for the five years of 1,911,302 acres. Of the large extent of land available 136,963 acres are returned as under cultivation during the year compared with 139,698 acres in 1882–83, 139,554 acres in 1881–82, 116,882 in 1880–81, and 129,637 in 1879–80.

These figures show no large fluctuation in cultivation during the last five years, the large decrease shown in 1880–81 being accounted for by a larger collection of arrears than usual in the next year.

Cane cultivation during the like period has not risen much above 43,000 acres, or decreased much below 40,000 acres. In reviewing last year's returns I noticed an increase of 2,077 acres in cane cultivation over the previous year, and this increase has been fully sustained in the year under review, notwithstanding the growing depression in the cane sugar industry.

With coffee, the area under cultivation has not exceeded 23,000 acres during the last five years, while it is only returned in one of the years as slightly under 20,000 acres.

From these facts it is apparent that during the year under report no great change has taken place one way or the other with either of these great staples of the Colony, which are now at low prices in the market.

Ginger, for which this Colony bears a good reputation, is now-a-days cultivated to a very limited extent, and the cultivation is entirely in the hands of small settlers, the most numerous cultivators being some white immigrants and their descendants. An average of 135 acres is the return of this cultivation for the last five years. In 1883–84, however, the export of ginger reached the respectable amount of 12,136 cwt., which is much the highest export for the past five years.

It is to be regretted that the cultivation of tobacco in this Colony where soil and climate are so admirably suited to it, has diminished to 62 acres, but it is probable that a large quantity of tobacco is grown in common with other crops, and not shown in the returns. As has been mentioned in former returns the island consumption of cigars is now provided for to a considerable extent within the Colony.

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The extent to which the cultivation of fruit is now carried on can best be judged by a reference to the customs export returns, which give the figures in detail, but the following were the exports of the principal fruits during the year :—

	Value. £
Bananas, 1,842,934 bunches - -	191,972
Oranges, No. 41,639,500 - -	58,295
Pine apples 14,070½ doz. - -	2,110
Representing a total of - - -	252,377

Under the head of trade will be found my remarks on this subject. Evidence is furnished by the Department of Gardens and Plantations of the demand for orange seedlings which is considerable.

The cultivation of cocoa has excited much interest within the last few years, and the best varieties of Trinidad and Venezuela cacao have been procured both by the Government and private enterprise for propagation. Although more land is planted out in cacao than appears in the returns (owing to some of the young plantations being returned as under cultivation in other crops in connexion with which cacao is grown, such as bananas, &c.,) there are 282 acres returned this year against 50, 48, 27, and 35 acres returned respectively in the four previous years. Increased attention has been paid for some little time past to the curing of cacao with good results. The quantity of cacao exported this year was 4,016 cwt., the estimated value in Jamaica being given as 8,997*l.*

I remarked last year on a new feature in exports in the large shipment of yams and other ground provisions to Panama. This year the export is valued at 9,918*l.* against 2,679*l.* last year. The acreage under cultivation is, however, practically the same, 72,084 acres against 74,034 acres in 1882–83. Having found a market it has evidently been easy to supply it without any increase of the area under cultivation, a fact which may be taken as an indication of the abundance of native food supplies, and of the easy circumstances of the people in that respect.

In dealing with the subject of agriculture in this Colony I have to report with reference to the labour supply that 24,301 labourers left the Colony during the year, most of them for Colon. Of these 11,600 returned from thence. This exodus of labour does not seem, however, to have much interfered with agricultural operations, except on some of the sugar estates.

Police.

The police force on the 30th September 1884 consisted of 1 inspector general, 19 officers, and 689 men of all ranks, supplemented by a rural police force of 199 headmen, who have power to call out a certain number of rural policemen when it is found necessary.

The regular police were thus distributed during the past year. At the dêpot at Spanish Town, where the training of recruits is carried on, there were 89 of all ranks, 170 were stationed in Kingston, and 424 distributed over the thirteen other parishes of the Island. These figures give a proportion of slightly more than one policeman to every thousand of the population. This is a very small proportion, especially when the topography of the country is considered, and it is borne in mind that the Colony contains 4,193 square miles, with a scattered population of less than 150 to the square mile.

The statistics furnished by the Inspector General of Police show a less number of persons apprehended, search warrants executed, courts attended, and prisoners escorted, a necessary consequence of the diminution of crime this year as compared with recent years, as will more clearly appear on reference to the summary below. It is also noticeable that the number of post-mortem examinations ordered has fallen by nearly one-half as compared with 1882–83 and 1881–82.

———	1879–80.	1880–81.	1881–82.	1882–83.	1883–84.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information - -	5,844	8,454	6,053	4,849	5,994
Number of persons apprehended on warrants	2,108	2,734	2,111	1,783	
Number of search warrants executed -	108	161	108	104	102
Number of persons summoned - -	8,719	9,145	10,648	11,253	27,545
Number of persons subpœned - -	12,898	14,700	16,775	16,522	
Number of seizures under revenue laws - -	553	994	904	745	663
Number of post-mortems ordered - -	496	596	464	457	287
Number of prisoners escorted - -	9,769	20,541	11,680	9,912	7,324

Nine cases of murder appear in the returns and 24 cases of manslaughter. Of other "offences against the person," concealing birth yields a solitary instance, as did "attempt to poison," "shooting with intent," and "assault occasioning bodily harm." "Cutting and wounding" furnished the large number of 295 cases.

"Offences against property committed with violence" give 122 cases this year, and principally were composed of burglaries in dwelling houses, shops, &c. Kingston, the chief city of the island, has been wonderfully clear from the crime of burglary during the year, the inspector reporting that he believes "there have never "been so few cases (three only) reported since the formation of "the constabulary force." Of "offences against property without "violence" there were 2,531 apprehensions against 3,413 and 3,927 in 1882-83 and 1881–82 respectively.

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Under this head come larceny of small "stock" and "prædial larceny," two offences hitherto very common in this Colony, but it is gratifying to state less common this year. The latter only number 561 apprehensions this year against 1,098 cases two years before, or little more than one half. Much of this satisfactory state of things is ascribed to the fruit cultivation in parishes like Portland, St. Thomas and St. Mary, where the industrious are fairly well off, and where the small cultivator finds it to be his interest to watch and prevent dishonest persons from reaping the benefits of his industry.

The decrease of serious crime in the Colony as evidenced by the police returns cannot fail to afford satisfaction, even if it be true, as is said, that this decrease is partly due to the outlet afforded by the Panama Canal works for the energies of a large number of our dangerous and troublesome classes.

There was a considerable increase this year under the minor offences of disorderly conduct, obscene and abusive language, and furious and careless driving, which numbered 5,328 against 4,650 and 5,004 in the two years immediately preceding. The supposed cause of this increase is that the police utilized the respite caused by the decrease of the more serious crimes in a more rigid attention to the minor offences coming under their observation.

The police also continued to give useful help in connexion with offences against the vaccination, health, and immigration laws. In the case of this last they had in some instances to encounter considerable danger of illtreatment in consequence of the turbulent character of the recently imported Chinese immigrants.

The changes in the police force were many during the year, viz.: 128 discharged and 120 enrolled. There were 54 discharged for bad conduct, an increase of 10 over last year and of 21 over the year before.

The sum of 342*l.* was granted during the year in pensions and gratuities from the Constabulary Pension Fund to deserving men of the force.

Prisons.

The general decrease in the number of prisoners in the General Penitentiary and prisons of the island has continued in the year under report, the numbers in each of the last five years having been as under:—

1880	-	-	-	1,128
1881	-	-	-	1,212
1882	-	-	-	938
1883	-	-	-	811
1884	-	-	-	750

This continuous decrease is probably attributed in a measure to the better discipline and system now obtaining in the prisons, and which renders them more deterrent, and this opinion is somewhat supported by the fact that the re-convictions in all the prisons in the year under report are 146 less than they were last year.

The employment of the prisoners in the General Penitentiary consists of brick-making, lime burning and quarrying stone, with the addition of carpenters and masons, and other trades within the walls.

In the district and short term prisons, the prisoners are not now employed on the public and parochial roads, but are confined to the more strictly penal labour within the walls.

The gross cost of all the prisons in the island amounted in this year to 18,337*l.*, and the gross earnings in cash to 4,182*l.* with the further sum of 4,643*l.* for labour yielding no return in money. The net cost of each prisoner was therefore, 18*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* or 12*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* if the unpaid labour is taken into account. The increase in this rate over that of the previous year, which was 15*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, is due not only to the prisoners being fewer in number, and costing, therefore, more in proportion per head, but also to their having been withdrawn from working on the streets and confined to labour within the walls, which is more deterrent as a punishment, but not so profitable in a merely monetary point of view.

The good service of the English warders in the General Penitentiary under the Superintendent, who was also trained in an English convict prison, continues to be apparent; and a further improvement in prison discipline has also been secured by appointing the wife of one of these warders who had been trained at Woking Prison to be matron of the Female Penitentiary.

The death rate in the General Penitentiary during the year, was 48·18 per 1,000, in the other prisons taken together it was 12·5 per 1,000.

In explanation of the high rate in the Penitentiary, it must be remembered, as has often been explained before, that a large proportion of the prisoners are in an impaired state of health on admission.

Religious services in the General Penitentiary have been regularly performed by the Voluntary Co-operative Chaplaincy, and the Roman Catholic Priests visit the prisoners of their persuasion; but in the district and short term prisons there is only a short service conducted by the superintendent.

Vital Statistics.

By the Census of April 1881 the population of the Island was 580,804, and if the total excess of births over deaths in the three and a half years since that date were added, the population at the close of the year under report might be stated at 611,809. The emigration of large numbers of the people to Colon must, however, be taken into account in deciding the actual resident population, and as it is reported that up to the end of the year, the total net loss was 20,192, the present Island population may be taken at about 592,000. It is, however, satisfactory to learn that in spite of this drain, which is almost entirely confined to adult men at what may

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be considered as the reproductive ages, the natural increase in the population has continued, the number of births having been 21,402 as against 13,484 deaths, or a gain to the population of 7,918. The birth rate of the year was 36·1 per 1,000 of the mean population, which is a decrease on last year when the annually (? unusually) high rate of 40·6 was recorded. In 1881–82 and 1880-81 the rate was respectively 35·7 and 36·7.

The large percentage of illegitimate births still continues, and was 58·9 in the year.

The Registrar General has year by year called attention to the gravity of this record of social impurity in the home life of the people, and pointed out that so long as it exists the various educational and sanitary agencies in operation for their intellectual and physical welfare must be impeded at every step.

The deaths registered were 13,484 or equivalent to 22·7 per 1,000 of the mean population, thus showing not much change on the previous year when the rate was 22·5 per 1,000 of the population. It is a curious incident that over 10 per cent. of these deaths occurred amongst persons over 75 years of age.

The continued absence in the vast majority of cases of professional or other reliable information as to the cause of death has to a great extent prevented any reliable conclusions being drawn from the registers as to the various diseases responsible for the year's mortality. It is reported that in the total number of deaths in the parishes other than Kingston nearly 90 per cent. were cases in which skilled medical aid had not been obtained, and this state of things is not confined to the interior parts of the parishes where for the most part competent medical aid is not easily obtained, but exists also in the centres of parishes where medical men are present, and their attendance on the poor is to a considerable extent secured by a system of payment from public funds. In the parish of Kingston, however, nearly 80 per cent. of the deaths registered are accompanied by doctor's certificates.

General.

The health of the community has been good during the year. Fortunately, cholera, the approach of which was apprehended in Jamaica, in common with other places, did not reach our shores. Some slight activity displayed to remedy sanitary defects in Kingston and some other towns in consequence of the ravages of cholera elsewhere will not be thrown away.

After a lapse of 19 years representation has been restored to the Colony with a more liberal franchise than before, and the elections passed off with commendable quietude.

The record of the proceedings of the first reformed council will more suitably find a place in my next year's report, but I may mention that the new Legislative Council actually met on the last day of the year of which this book is a record. Under the new constitution the elected members possess a majority over the

nominated and official members, but in an extreme case the Governor can nominate three more members so as to equalise the number of official and nominated and elected members.

Depression has unfortunately existed in the sugar interests, and in one district of the Island the fruit trade was injuriously affected by the failure of an American firm doing an extensive business on the north-east side of the Island; the bad effects of this have nearly passed away, and during the year I can only trace that one sugar estate has been given up, and this has been converted into a banana growing estate.

A shipload of Chinese labourers arrived during the year, and were located on the estates applying for them. They have proved intractable as a body, but as they become more accustomed to the country and people it is reasonable to hope that they will be more contented and conduct themselves better.

The report of the Royal Commissioners on the finances of the Colony mentioned in last year's report as then under consideration has been acted upon to some extent, and the whole of the subjects dealt with in the report have formed the subject of correspondence with the Secretary of State, a considerable portion of which correspondence had not been concluded at the end of the official year.

The rain-fall of the year has been under the average in most parts of the Island.

Public attention has been called through the press and otherwise to the supposed benefits that would arise if this Colony were to confederate with the Dominion of Canada, but popular feeling while questioning the benefits runs counter to the proposal. A motion made in the Legislative Council just after the conclusion of the year in favour of this confederation met with no support, the proposer being alone in favour of the measure.

A suggested treaty with the United States of America for the introduction of sugar duty free has also been freely discussed. It is now the subject of diplomatic negotiation and no agreement has been arrived at as far as is known here up to the present date.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN,
Governor.

King's House, Jamaica,
14th April 1885.

British Honduras.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 2.

Governor R. T. Goldsworthy, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K.G.

Government House, Belize,
June 25, 1885.

My Lord,

In considering the advancement and progress made in the material prosperity of a colony, a fair criterion by which to judge will be found in its revenue and expenditure, its imports and exports, coupled with its manufactures, agricultural, mining, and other industries; whilst its improvement in what may be termed its internal and domestic economy may be better gathered from a glance at its laws, its means of educating the masses, its charitable and other institutions, with a consideration of how far they have been availed of; and last, though not least important, in arriving at a just conclusion of a colony's retrogression—or otherwise its pauper and criminal statistics.

All, and indeed more than, this, may be found in the Blue Book for 1884, but I shall chiefly confine myself to the heads above mentioned, except where anything special has occurred under the numerous heads of information afforded; but, generally speaking, it will be found that though no vast or rapid strides have been made, yet that a steady and sensible progress has in some respects, though not in all, taken place.

The revenue, as compared with 1883, shows a falling off of 411*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, the revenue for 1884 being 51,866*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, whilst in 1883 it amounted to 52,277*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*; but, as compared with 1882, there is still an excess of 5,481*l.* 12*s.*

The decrease in 1884, as compared with 1883, is chiefly in customs receipts, and is probably due to a decline in the prices obtainable in the English and American market prices for our chief staple, mahogany. It is surprising to me that the revenue from customs has kept up as it has done, being naturally largely affected by the briskness or otherwise of the export trade. Now 1883 was an exceptionally good year for mahogany, the prices being high, 6,928,168 feet realising 100,976*l.*, whilst in 1884 the larger quantity of 7,527,879 feet only fetched 94,877*l.* 12*s.*; add to this the great depression in the sugar trade and the falling off in customs is easily accounted for.

Taking for comparison the last ten years it will be seen from the subjoined table of revenue and expenditure that the revenue for that period was 445,301*l.* and the expenditure 442,923*l.*, or an average in favour of receipts of 237*l.* per annum.

In the year 1884 under consideration a sum of 1,719*l.* has been spent in excess of revenue though the expenditure has exceeded that anticipated by the comparatively large sum of 9,695*l.*

It is not difficult to account for the actual expenditure so largely exceeding that estimated, when it is stated that provisions had to be made during the year for the following:—

1. Subsidy to mail.
2. Vote of 2,000*l.* for New Orleans Exposition.
3. Expenditure owing to advent of locusts.
4. Repairs to public buildings.
5. Public works, &c.

In public buildings was included a considerable sum spent in thoroughly repairing and renovating Government House, which it had previously been decided to rebuild at an estimated outlay of from 6,000*l.* to 8,000*l.*

With what has been done in 1884 and is being effected this year, a new Government House will not be required for another decade.

The excess of expenditure was paid out of an available balance on hand of 19,206*l.* 12*s.* at the commencement of 1884, which at the end of that year stood at 17,487*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*

The financial condition of the Colony cannot be considered otherwise than satisfactory, for the taxation is not excessive, and therefore, should necessity arise, the revenue could still further be augmented without unduly pressing upon anyone.

The incidence of taxation might be more equitably adjusted than at present. Tonnage dues might well be abolished; they are already so in respect to steamers, and should be as regards sailing vessels to enable the latter to compete on fairer conditions. In fact, the dues, owing to steamers gradually and surely edging out sailing vessels, are year by year becoming less, and it would be advantageous, I think, to do away with them altogether, and thus prevent steamers having an almost entire monoply. As an example of how far I am borne out by the returns, I quote the following:—

The tonnage dues were in—

	£
1882 - - - -	2,885
1883 - - - -	2,568
1884 - - - -	1,982

—showing a falling off in the last two years of about 11 per cent. in 1883, and 31 per cent. in 1884, and a still further declension may be looked for. It would therefore be expedient to abolish tonnage dues, but as it would not be advisable to decrease this source of revenue without substituting another, the introduction of a Stamp Act, which being distributed over the whole of the community instead of falling, as tonnage dues do, on the shipping interest alone, would be more equitable in its operation, might be decided on.

A re-adjustment of the light dues so that steamers equally with sailing vessels will in future contribute, the substitution of

BRITISH HONDURAS.

specific for *ad valorem* duties in a few cases, and the adjustment of the existing tariff on a more equitable and fair basis (so that whilst decreasing the duties on some of the necessaries of life, those on luxuries will be increased), sufficient provision will be made for meeting any deficiency in revenue consequent on the abolition of tonnage dues.

Public Works.

As the subjoined report from the Colonial Engineer, received too late for publication in the Blue Book, speaks for itself, I have no remarks to make.

REPORT ON PUBLIC WORKS IN BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour with reference to the above to report as follows:—

1*st. Roads, Streets, and Bridges.*

An expenditure of 3,026*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* was incurred, being an excess of 1,026*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* on the amount voted. This excess arose chiefly in connexion with repairs to the upper portion of the Haulover Road near Tillet's Pond and the bridge over the same; and in connexion with a new road to the new cemetery at "Lord's Ridge," on the west side of Belize. The main bridge in Belize was also repaired at a cost of 140*l.*, and the three-quarters of a mile bridge over the Libun Swamp received some extensive but indispensable repairs. The Toledo and Faber's roads were improved and several carts and mules purchased for Government transport.

Works and Buildings.

A sum of 1,760*l.* was voted for this service, but the actual cost was 5,302*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, an excess of 3,542*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* Of this amount the sum of 618*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* was spent on repairs to Government House. It had been intended to pull down the existing house and to erect a new one at a cost of from 6,000*l.* to 8,000*l.*; but, in the Governor's opinion, this was unnecessary, and with what has been done and what year by year will be done, the present building can be maintained without difficulty and at slight expense for 8 or 10 years longer. Expenditure is still going on this year in connexion with the out-offices, &c., which are being rebuilt or thoroughly repaired, so as to last as long or longer than the main building. Of the major items of expenditure may be mentioned 241*l.* 12*s.* for repairs to the bonded warehouse, Belize; 200*l.* for alterations to the hospital and asylum; 401*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* for repairs

to Government buildings (principally the forts) at Carozal and Orange Walk. These latter buildings are a source of considerable yearly outlay, and will before long require (especially Orange Walk) thorough renewal. The magistrate's house at Punta Gorda was completed, a new fruit market in Belize was erected, and all other public buildings, including lighthouses, maintained. For stores, materials, and new structures a sum of 1,460*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* was expended through the Crown Agents and local contractors, of which about 500*l.* worth was in hand at the end of the year.

Siccama's Scheme.

A sum of 301*l.* 4*s.* was expended in connexion with the cleansing of the North Side Canal, the bottom of which was previously in a most unsanitary condition. This year active measures are being taken (under a contract for carrying out nearly the whole of Baron Siccama's scheme for the improvement of the town and harbour of Belize) to remove all the causes of this unsatisfactory sanitary condition in this and the other canal, which will, it is to be hoped, result in a permanent improvement in the general health of the town. On the whole the general result of the expenditure for public works in the year 1884 may be regarded as fairly satisfactory both as to the necessities of the moment and those of the future. It is, however, to be noted, that a large proportion of this expenditure was strictly confined to maintenance, and was rendered necessary by ignoring in the past of the maxim "A stitch in time saveth nine."

I am, &c.

(Signed) HENRY E. P. COTTRELL, C.E.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Legislation.

A considerable number of useful Bills were introduced and passed the Legislative Council, subsequently receiving the Royal Assent, with the exception of No. 8, which was disallowed. The following are the list:—

1. To facilitate the destruction of locusts.
2. To authorise the revision, consolidation, and publication of the Laws of British Honduras.
3. To confirm the expenditure for the services of the year 1883 beyond the grants for that year.
4. To amend the Police Ordinance, 1878.
5. To amend the Wrecks, Casualties, and Salvage Ordinance, 1879.
6. To confirm, ratify, and legalise certain grants of Crown lands in the Colony of British Honduras.
7. To amend the labour Ordinance, 1883.
8. To facilitate the compulsory purchase of lands.

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9. To limit the operation of Cattle Trespass, and Pound Ordinance, 1878.

10. To provide for the collection of public fees by the use of stamps.

11. To authorise the investment in the savings bank of small sums of money paid into the Supreme Court by trustees.

12. To protect public officers and persons acting *bonâ fide* in pursuance of any Act or Ordinance, or in the execution of any duty imposed by law, from vexatious and frivolous actions.

13. To amend the law relating to explosive substances.

14. To appoint the sum of three hundred and fifteen thousand nine hundred and nine dollars and forty-three cents ($315,909.43) out of the general revenue of the Colony for the service of the year 1885.

15. For the registration of births, marriages, and deaths, within the Colony of British Honduras.

16. To consolidate and amend the law relating to prisons and their government.

17. To confirm the proceedings of the Legislative Council in certain cases.

Of the above, that to faciliate the destruction of locusts, unfortunately owing to the advent of those destructive pests on our northern frontier, became a necesssity.

I regret having to report that they have made their reappearance again this year.

It is pleasant to be able to record the willing assistance rendered to the Government by all classes of the inhabitants, and which, I am sure, would be forthcoming now the Colony is again afflicted by their presence.

No. 6 was introduced, consequent on certain grants of land which had been issued in past years being found "irregular," "illegal," or deficient in some or other respect, to "ratify and legalise" the same.

I regret to say that the Land Ordinance at present in force requires considerable amendment, and that it is now engaging my attention; but as some very radical changes are contemplated, both in respect to the sale, leasing, and surveys of land, it will, before its introduction, be referred to your Lordship, I may also state that in my opinion the system which has been adopted, of indiscriminately disposing in the past, at a minimum price, of land without any provisions to ensure improvements being carried out within a reasonable period, has been a faulty one and has resulted in the acquisition of large areas of land by men who had neither the intention nor the means to develop them.

It should further, in my opinion, be our aim not to get rid of our land in any large quantity, in the view that land grants will be our only available means of paying for railway construction, but what should be our endeavour is to ensure that what may be disposed of will be put into cultivation or utilized for pasture lands and thus advance the agricultural and pastoral interests.

No. 15. Hitherto, whilst marriages have been registered, the registration of births and deaths has been entirely overlooked. It appeared to me that in a civilized community the omission of so important a matter was a blot on our Statute Book, and hence the Ordinance introduced; and on my recommendation the present Colonial Secretary acts as Registrar General of the Colony with a slight augmentation of his salary as Colonial Secretary.

No. 17. This Ordinance was introduced to confirm certain proceedings of the Legislature, a doubt having arisen as to whether, owing to the wording of the Constitution Ordinance, it was necessary for the whole of the nominee members to be present within the limits of the Colony at the time when any Bill should be under discussion. I have since received your Lordship's instructions to still further amend the Ordinance in question.

Civil Establishment.

Various promotions and appointments were made during the year, but as these are given in detail in the Blue Book under consideration repetition here is unnecessary.

I may refer, however, to the constituting by Her Majesty's Letters Patent of British Honduras as a Government separate and apart from Jamaica, to which hitherto it had been subordinate, and the appointment of myself as first governor.

The Colonists were much gratified at British Honduras being raised from the status of a subordinate to that of a full Government, and the feeling of satisfaction was universal throughout the Colony, and in honour of the occasion a general holiday was observed.

I was absent during the year three weeks to represent the Colony at the opening of the New Orleans Exhibition, and am happy to be able to speak of the satisfactory position that British Honduras has achieved thereat.

The thanks of the community are undoubtedly due to Chief Justice Sheriff, chairman of the local committee, whose efforts were ably seconded by Mr. Mutrie and other gentlemen.

Councils and Assemblies.

A vacancy was caused by the death of the Hon. V. McDonald on the 26th October 1884, which was filled by the appointment of James C. Darby, Esq.

Population.

The population according to the census of 1881 was 27,452, but as there has been no system of registering births and deaths it is impossible to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion as to whether or not it has increased since then.

Recently some 80 families of Indians have located themselves in British Honduras becoming dissatisfied with the taxation in the neighbouring State.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

The population is slightly on the increase, but the scarcity of population in so large an area of country is a great drawback to the advancement of the Colony.

A Bill for the registration of births, marriages, and deaths was introduced and passed in the latter period of 1884, which will enable the necessary information to be obtained in the future.

Education.

The census of 1881 shows a total of 9,826 children under 15 years of age, of which number 3,381 are returned as between 5 and 10 years of age and 2,985 as between 10 and 15 years of age; that is, 6,366 children who might be expected to attend school. The rolls of the Government-aided schools show an aggregate in 1884 of 2,310, or about 36 per cent. This result, though far from satisfactory, is, to a certain extent, to be accounted for by the peculiar circumstances of the Colony, the mixture of races, Hispano, Indians, Carib, and Negro, the want of internal communication, and other causes; but I am of opinion that the time has not yet arrived for compulsory legislation on this subject. Should, however, no improvement take place in the numbers attending school I may have no option in the matter.

Coins, Exchanges, &c.

Nothing could be worse than the currency of British Honduras, but as steps are being taken to remedy the evils I shall refrain from saying further on the subject.

Imports and Exports.

The general imports of the Colony in value during 1884 are represented by the figures 237,538*l.*, as compared with 268,973*l.* in 1883; but this latter year appears to have been an exceptional one for British Honduras, as in none of the years prior to 1883 have the value of importations reached those of the year under consideration; whilst the goods imported in 1884 are of less value by 31,435*l.* than the previous year, the produce exported was valued at 317,449*l.* 4*s.*, exceeding the exports in 1883 by 14,579*l.* 12*s.*

The falling off in imports appears to have been fairly divided between the various countries, with the exception of Germany, whose exportations amounted in 1884 to nearly double what they were in the previous year. These comprised chiefly articles of clothing, boots, sadlery, and drapery. Of the latter, the quantity imported was nearly four times what it was in 1883. From the United Kingdom the principal falling off was in cotton goods to the extent of 8,457*l.*; drapery, millinery, and haberdashery, 1,998*l.*; earthenware and glass ware, 1,128*l.*; oilmen's stores, 1,291*l.*; butter, 814*l.*; guns and pistols, 967*l.*; iron roofing, 537*l.*; soap, 1,370*l.*;

sundries, 1,104*l.*; wines, 541*l.*: woollen goods, 871*l.*; brandy, 1,917*l.*; sugar, 482*l.* On the other hand, there were increments under the heads of candles, hats, iron fencing, jewellery and plate, rice, salt, silks, wood, and wicker-work (whisky, 535*l.*), coal and coke, 2,832*l.* (only 55*l.* previous year).

Of the principal articles (the products of British Honduras) exported, a slight increase is shown in fruits (the fruit trade is yet in its infancy). In the woods of the country there was a falling off in cedar, but large quantities of logwood, mahogany, &c. were exported, though the latter did not realise so high a price as in 1883. There was also a considerable increase in the quantity of sugar exported, but the prices realised did not pay the cost of production, &c.

Subjoined is a comparative statement of the principal exports in 1883 and 1884, showing where there has been a falling off in the revenue.

Products.	Quantities.		Values.		Decrease.	Increase.
	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.		
			£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.
Bananas - -	87,039 bun.	88,538 bun.	7,628 0	7,869 8	—	241 8
Cedar - -	469,144 feet	348,341 feet	6,361 8	4,453 0	1,908 8	—
Cocoanuts - -	1,363,819	1,554,149	5,144 16	5,502 0	—	357 4
Hides and skins -	17,176 lbs.	14,240 lbs.	269 4	437 0	—	167 16
Logwood - -	13,363¼ tons	15,302¾ tons	51,509 0	59,543 16	—	8,034 16
Mahogany - -	6,928,168 ft.	7,527,879 ft.	100,976 16	94,877 12	6,099 4	—
Plantains - -	1,026,905	591,300	1,505 12	1,017 8	488 4	—
Rum - - -	17,509½ gall.	22,215 gall.	2,339 8	2,935 12	—	596 4
Rubber - -	18,866¾ lbs.	17,815 lbs.	1,945 12	1,721 16	223 16	—
Sugar (Raw) -	4,526,559 „	5,358,593 „	31,988 8	40,957 4	—	8,968 16
Tortoiseshell -	,005 „	1,759 „	1,661 12	1,253 4	408 8	—
Turtle - -	262 „	348 „	295 4	382 8	—	87 4
Ziricote - -	53¾ tons	150½ tons	231 12	1,265 4	—	1,033 12

Gaols and Prisoners.

A glance at criminal statistics is only needed to account for the large number of prisoners during the year, exceeding those in 1883 by 159. Necessarily this caused increased expenditure, resulting in 1,915*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* being disbursed under the above head in 1884 against 1,639*l.* 8*s.* in the previous year, or at the rate of about 21*l.* 10*s.* per head.

The discipline of the gaol was not by any means satisfactory during the past year, but judging by what transpired at the trial of Turnkey Ormsby in the Supreme Court it would be difficult to conceive greater laxness than what existed previously. The present gaoler who arrived in the Colony in April 1884 has had an up-hill task, as his efforts have been but indifferently seconded by the overseers, most of whom belonging to or resident in British Honduras were more or less connected with the inmates. Whilst anxious to give the inhabitants every chance of holding appointments in the Colony, I must say that in a Colony with so spare a population as British Honduras it is undesirable to employ them in positions of trust in gaols or prisons.

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Ordinance No. 16 to consolidate and amend the laws relating to prisons was passed during the year, and will, I trust, prove beneficial in its operation.

The number of punishments have been 172 as compared with 108, but even taking into account the increased number of prisoners, relatively the proportion of punishments is much larger; this has been probably owing to offences not being overlooked, as appears to have been the case under the late gaoler.

Your Lordship has under consideration my suggestions relative to efficient overseers being obtained from England, and I doubt not when the gaoler finds he has proper support from his subordinates the discipline of the prison will be much improved.

The gaol is now undergoing extensive repairs and alterations, and when completed considerable extra accommodation will be afforded; this was most essential looking to the cramped condition, more especially of the female prison, and the large increase in the number of male prisoners.

Criminal Statistics.

There is, I regret to say, no cause for satisfaction when glancing at the return of crime, the only heads under which there were fewer convictions in 1884 being in the cases of "prædial larceny" and "offences against property," &c., where the numbers were 15 and 98 against 19 and 129 in 1883 and 1884 respectively.

The total number of summary convictions for all offences was, however, 1,709 as compared with 1,372 in 1883.

No less than 460 convictions took place under the Labour Ordinance, whereas in 1883 there were only 320, showing an increase in the ratio of nearly three to two.

In November last year "The Labour Ordinance, 1883," was amended, but in its working it has been found that further legislation will be required to put it on a satisfactory basis.

The number of convictions in the Supreme Court also compares unfavourably with 1883. There can be no question that crime has been considerably on the increase, and this may be in some way accounted for by the influx of strangers from Guatemala, where they were employed on the construction of a railway, and, becoming discontented, ran away to British Honduras.

They consist chiefly of foreigners of all nationalities; in many cases, to judge by their appearance, they are the off-scourings of the United States. There are, of course, exceptions, and some have proved good and efficient workmen. Many of them landed in such a condition as compelled the Government, out of common humanity, to allow of their treatment in hospital, whilst others had no visible means of subsistence; but in order to prevent a further influx of these unsatisfactory immigrants a Bill to prevent their indiscriminate introduction has been framed on the lines of the Act in force in Newfoundland, and will be introduced at the first meeting of the Legislative Council.

Hospitals, Lunatic and Poor Asylums.

There is nothing particular to comment upon.

The buildings set apart for the hospital and lunatic asylum underwent some necessary repairs. The poor house I found beyond repair, and it has been condemned. A site has been acquired immediately adjacent to the hospital, and it is proposed to erect an entirely new building.

The pulling down of the present poor house will give increased garden space for the use of the hospital patients.

Reference to the cost per head will show that due economy is exercised by the Colonial Surgeon, whilst at the same time the comfort of the patients is not lost sight of.

I observed the absence of dispensaries in the out districts, but this want is in course of being remedied. In the northern district the hospital at Corosal was completed during the year, and though small will be found sufficient to meet the requirements of the district. The health of the Colony has been generally good. There were two deaths from yellow fever on board a vessel, and almost the entire crew were down from the same cause, the precautionary measures adopted by Dr. Hunter, Colonial Surgeon, confined the disease to the ship in which the yellow fever broke out.

A retrospective glance at the year 1884 which has just passed under notice is not one of entire satisfaction. At the same time, though the outlook in respect to our principal exports is not bright, owing to the continued low prices of mahogany and sugars, yet there are evidences from the advent of strangers to the Colony that it is receiving more attention from the outside world, especially from the United States, with which we are in frequent communication.

Several letters have been received asking for particulars relative to the facilities offered for the acquisition of land to intending settlers, and it is hoped that ere long, looking to the advantages British Honduras can show of a stable Government as compared with the Central American States, whilst for the agriculturist the soil is equally rich and capable of growing (*vide* Mr. Norris' book) almost any tropical product. In addition to some of those peculiar to more temperate zones, we shall have an influx of settlers who will probably employ their labour and capital in opening up the agricultural districts of the Colony, for I feel convinced that if the Colony is to emerge from the condition of stagnation in which it has been for years past, making little or no progress as compared with other Colonies similarly situated, with large tracts of land at their disposal, it will be by the efforts of those who turn their attention to agriculture and the rearing of cattle, &c. rather than to mahogany cutting, but we shall not obtain settlers if we do not assist them by giving them easy means of communication. Roads, properly speaking, we have none; such as do exist are the truck paths made by mahogany cutters in the pursuit of their calling and a few estate roads, the best in the country, constructed

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by planters. A scheme is now in progress for connecting the principal towns, &c. by good roads, but it will be a question of time and money.

Nature has been very beneficent in respect to rivers, but much has to be done in removing the bars at their mouths, cleaning the courses from the accumulations of snags and other *débris* and the removal of obstructions ere they can be utilised to any extent, except for the passage of pitpans,dories, and other small boats. When I point out that but 1,000*l.* has been spent annually on roads (the construction of the so-called Western Road leading to Guatemala alone excepted, on which some 6,000*l.* was spent) it will be seen what little attention has been paid in the past to them.

I would strongly advise the floating of a loan for 40,000*l.* or 50,000*l.* to carry out works of public utility, such as a proper water supply to Belize, the opening up of rivers and construction of roads and bridges, and the survey of Crown lands, &c. This is, however, hardly the place to enter into details, but I only desire to show by what means, in my opinion, a forward impetus may be given to the Colony.

Immigration, too, should not be neglected; it has been the making of British Guiana and other Colonies where labour, in the first instance, was scarce, and would, I am sure, be the means of inducing many who are now deterred from venturing their all in British Honduras, owing to the dearth of labour, to try their fortune here. The question of railroads and telegraphs will, I trust, also be one which may be taken up at no distant date, but on the former of these I have already in another Despatch touched somewhat lengthily and will not dwell now, reserving the latter for a future occasion. I desire only to add that, given the means of developing her resources, British Honduras may become as well known for her flourishing condition and the advantages she offers for enterprize as in the past she has been unrecognized, but she will make no progress or advance if we leave nature unaided.

Some clear and definite plan of action should be laid down and a certain line of policy adopted, without which we can hope for no better results in the future than are now ours, results not to be spoken of in the same breath with those which other Colonies, having no better start, have achieved, results which leave the Colony much in the same position as she was in 20 years ago, summed up in the phrase, "A mass of inertness."

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROGER TUCKFIELD GOLDSWORTHY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c.

A Return of the Receipts and Expenditure for the last 10 *Years.*

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1875 - - - -	41,906	40,839
1876 - - - -	40,231	36,614
1877 - - - -	44,020	43,444
1878 - - - -	41,417	54,265
1879 - - - -	40,324	50,699
1880 - - - -	43,234	37,922
1881 - - - -	43,642	40,712
1882 - - - -	46,384	44,500
1883 - - - -	52,277	40,543
1884 - - - -	51,866	53,585
Total - -	445,301	442,923

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 3.

Governor Sir H. W. NORMAN, K.C.B., C.I.E., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS for the year 1884.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The receipts during the year amounted to 8,476*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, and the expenditure to 7,978*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, leaving a surplus of 497*l.* 17*s.*, which, when added to the balance of 1,997*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* left from the previous year, makes the total surplus on the 31st December last 2,495*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

Imports and Exports.

2. The following comparative table of the value of the imports and exports, with other returns, shows the trade for the year:—

VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES in the years 1882, 1883, and 1884.

Articles.	1882.	1883.	1884.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salt - - - -	21,095 6 5	24,950 0 5	27,836 10 8
Cave earth - - -	1,205 12 8	6,265 16 0	4,028 9 0
Sponge - - - -	720 14 0	632 19 5	489 13 11
Straw, shell, and fruit - -	309 14 5	285 19 0	182 8 0
Totals - -	23,331 7 6	32,134 14 10	32,537 1 7

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

VALUE of IMPORTS for the years 1882, 1883, and 1884.

—	1882.	1883.	1884.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Imports - - -	26,822 11 3	24,557 13 8	26,623 1 5

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each Port for the 30 years 1849 to 1878; also for the five years 1880 to 1884, and EXPORTS for the year 1884.

Ports.	1849 to 1878.	1880 to 1884.	1884.
Grand Turk - -	609,019	602,266	623,140
Salt Cay - - -	458,384	464,539	724,608
Cockburn Harbour -	{ Not under cultivation }	453,458	629,623
Total - -	—	1,520,263	1,977,371

NOTE.—The year 1879 is omitted, as being an exceptional year for rain, and the smallest shipment, 596,488 bushels, ever made.

Salt in the Colony on 31st December 1879 - 1,500 bushels.
" " " 1880 - 700,000 "
" " " 1881 - 1,000,000 "
" " " 1882 - 650,000 "
" " " 1883 - 900,000 "
" " " 1884 - 150,000 "

RAINFALL at GRAND TURK, SALT CAY, COCKBURN HARBOUR, and KEW for each month of the year 1884, compared with the average of five years.

Months.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
January - - -	1·10	·83	1·56	3·57
February - -	·80	·52	1·04	·55
March - - -	1·37	1·42	1·70	1·55
April - - -	·04	·24	·26	·78
May - - -	2·33	1·01	5·91	12·06
June - - -	2·24	1·23	4·53	7·64
July - - -	1·87	1·17	2·67	3·26
August - - -	4·92	1·82	2·38	6·48
September - -	10·77	3·54	3·72	4·04
October - - -	8·21	12·27	7·15	12·14
November - -	3·38	3·64	·90	2·36
December - -	1·86	3·75	2·36	4·65
Total - -	38·89	31·44	34·18	59·08
Average for five years, 1880 to 1884 - -	26·36	25·01	23·79	—

RETURN for the Year ending 31st December 1884.

—	War Vessels.	Steamers.	Ships.	Barques.	Barkantines.	Brigs.	Brigantines.	Schooners.	Three-masted Schooners.	Total.
Number and class of vessels that passed through the Turks Islands Passage by daylight - - -	1	3	2	13	9	1	64	66	45	204
Number and class of vessels that passed the lighthouse and anchored at Turks Islands - - -	—	29	1	19	13	4	63	53	29	211
Total - -	1	32	3	32	22	5	127	119	74	415

SCHEDULE of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the PUBLIC REVENUE for the year 1884, in comparison with the preceding year 1883.

Imports.	1883. £	s.	d.	1884. £	s.	d.
Alcohol - - - - - -	17	16	0	0	16	0
Ale, porter, cider, &c. - - - -	19	13	6	16	4	0
Asses - - - - - -	1	0	0	—		
Bay water - - - - -	10	16	0	12	19	0
Beans and peas - - - - -	5	12	8	2	4	2
Bread - - - - - -	24	7	5	18	8	5
Butter - - - - - -	50	7	4	51	16	9
Candles - - - - - -	5	4	10	4	7	7
Cattle and Calves - - - -	3	8	9	3	8	9
Cheese - - - - -	18	19	10	20	1	3
Chocolate - - - - -	7	15	5	4	13	10
Cigars - - - - -	10	2	3	4	17	10
Cocoa - - - - -	0	1	9	—		
Coffee - - - - - -	21	14	1	5	11	9
Cordage - - - - - -	6	14	11	2	8	3
Cordials - - - - -	1	10	0	1	2	6
Corn - - - - - -	12	16	3	4	10	7
Fish, dried and pickled - - - -	24	14	4	13	14	2
Flour, wheat - - - - -	484	5	0	452	6	7
Flour, rye, and corn meal - - -	74	8	0	22	10	9
Horses - - - - - -	8	0	0	12	0	0
Lard - - - - - -	59	4	8	64	5	10
Lumber and shingles - - - -	79	8	8	31	9	0
Meat, salted and cured - - - -	138	6	5	142	17	7
Molasses, syrup, and honey - - -	72	6	6	59	4	10
Oils - - - - - -	45	10	11	53	16	3
Paint in oil - - - - -	8	10	9	10	9	6
Pitch, tar, and rosin - - - -	1	10	9	2	2	0
Raisins, currants, and figs - - -	4	13	11	3	1	7
Rice - - - - - -	58	6	2	53	16	1

Imports.	1883. £	s.	d.	1884. £	s.	d.
Rum, brandy, gin, &c.	521	18	5	599	1	2
Sheep and goats	0	6	0	0	1	0
Soap	37	4	2	38	9	2
Spirits, turpentine	0	2	0	—		
Sugar	175	17	6	250	1	6
Swine	0	10	10	0	1	8
Tea	21	18	7	23	12	6
Tobacco	44	4	11	39	7	8
Wine	31	10	1	57	0	5
Ad valorem duties	815	1	10	917	4	5
	2,926	1	5	3,000	14	4
Other Sources of Revenue.						
Royalty of 10 per cent. ad valorem on salt exported: in 1883—1,705,593 bushels; in 1884—1,977,371 bushels	2,665	3	1	2,997	18	7
Light duties	783	7	8	948	10	8
Auction duties	42	11	8	60	15	3
Fines from Supreme and Police Courts	51	0	0	87	0	9
Fees of office	57	7	6	63	5	1
Postage	138	0	6	152	5	6
Post Office Money Order commissions	8	15	10	12	3	1
Liquor licenses	75	0	0	75	0	0
Wine „	58	0	0	58	0	0
Dog Tax	15	18	0	17	6	6
Sales Crown land	5	13	0	4	4	5
Lease „ „	31	6	6	36	9	6
Receipt from Imperial Post Office	300	0	0	300	0	0
Wharfage and storage	45	3	3	60	18	6
Miscellaneous—Sales Government property, &c.	60	7	7	196	0	0
Royalty on cave earth exported	238	12	0	250	7	0
Special	279	11	5	155	7	0
	4,855	18	0	5,475	11	10
Recapitulation.						
Imports	2,926	1	5	3,000	14	4
Other sources	4,855	18	0	5,475	11	10
	7,781	19	5	8,476	6	2
Balance from 1882 and 1883	2,234	14	8	1,997	6	4
	10,016	14	1	10,473	12	6
Expenditure for 1883 and 1884	8,019	7	9	7,978	9	2
Balance for 1884 and 1885	1,997	6	4	2,495	3	4

Tariff of Duties, Turks and Caicos Islands.

		s.	d.
Alcohol and spirits of wine	per gallon	4	0
Ale, beer, porter, perry and cider	„ „		2
Bay rum and bay water	„ „	1	0
Biscuits and bread	„ 100 lbs.	1	0
Butter	„ „	8	4
Cheese	„ „	6	3
Cigars	„ *M.*	10	0

		s.	d.
Drugs and medicines	10 per cent. ad valorem.		
Furniture	10 „ „ „		
Flour, wheat	Per barrel	3	9
Hats, bonnets and caps	10 per cent. ad valorem.		
Hardware and cutlery	10 „ „ „		
Lard	Per 100 lbs.	4	2
Leather, unmanufactured and all manufactures thereof	10 per cent. ad valorem.		
Lumber, yellow or pitch pine	Per *M.* feet	9	0
Do. other than yellow or pitch pine	„ „ „	6	0
Meat, salted or cured	„ 100 lbs.	4	2
Oil, mineral	„ Gallon		1
Oil, all other	„ „		6
Paints	„ 100 lbs.	4	2
Rice	„ „	1	0
Shingles, Cypress	„ *M.*	2	0
Do. all other	„ „	1	0
Soap	„ 100 lbs.	3	0
Spirits and cordials of all kinds	„ gallon	4	6
Starch	10 per cent. ad valorem.		
Sugar, refined	Per 100 lbs.	8	4
Do. muscovado and all others	„ „	4	2
Tea	„ pound		6
Textile fabrics of all materials and descriptions	10 per cent. ad valorem.		
Tinned provisions of all kinds	10 „ „ „		
Tobacco, manufactured other than cigars	Per 100 lbs.	8	4
Do. unmanufactured	„ „	4	2
Wine	Per gallon	1	0
	and 10 per cent. ad valorem.		
Hulls and materials, including boats of vessels wrecked, derelict, stranded or condemned	15 per cent. ad valorem.		
All other articles not enumerated	Free.		

NOTE.—All goods, the duties upon which are not less than 1*l.*, may be warehoused on first importation, and exported from the warehouse without payment of any duties. When the import duties, on first importation, amount to or exceed 20*l.* and not exceed 40*l.* a credit of two months is allowed, and on sums exceeding 40*l.* a credit of three months.

Prohibited.

Gunpowder, ammunition, arms or materials of war, except from the United Kingdom or any British Possession, and base or counterfeit coin.

Light Duty.

Per ton, 4*d.*

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Royalty.

On salt, 10 per cent. ad valorem.*

3. The value of the exports was larger than in the previous year and exceeded that of the imports by 6,000*l.*

4. The quantity of salt shipped was nearly two million bushels and reduced the stock left at the end of the year to 150,000 bushels.

5. Exceptional rain prevented the raking of an average crop of salt at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour, but at Salt Cay finer weather prevailed and a large yield ensued.

6. The value of the imports from Jamaica was 781 as against nil a few years ago, and there is no reason why this trade should not increase with the direct steamer now running between the two places.

7. In the month of August the tariff of import duties was revised, and a great many articles are now free that formerly paid duty, notably fish of all sorts, coffee, cocoa, chocolate, beans and peas, corn, hominy, molasses, horses and cattle, and the rate was reduced on many others, kerosene oil, ale, biscuits, &c.

8. Herewith I attach a copy of the tariff, from which it will be observed that everything not classed under any of the articles specified is free, and as far as the trade of this small Dependency is concerned the system is working satisfactorily.

9. The market value of salt, on which a Government royalty of ten per cent. ad valorem is paid, was reduced from 3¾*d.* to 3½*d.* per bushel in August, and fixed for five years at that or such lower sum as the Governor may determine annually.

10. The reduction of the import duties and the lowering of the salt royalty will it is estimated decrease the annual revenue from those sources by about 500*l.*

Public Works.

11. The total expenditure on public works during the year was 1,418*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* of which 242*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* was spent on the annual repairs to roads and buildings with minor new works, and 1,175*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* on special improvements, the cost of which has been defrayed from surplus revenues.

12. The cemetery at Grand Turk was completed and opened for burials on the 1st of September.

13. The abutment in front of the market, which was knocked down by a heavy sea in 1883, was rebuilt, taking in more land, and I hope as it stood the very heavy gale of October it will now last.

14. The warehouse at Grand Turk which is being built of stone, with an iron roof, doors, shutters, &c. has been built up to four feet above the ground, and all the iron work received from

* By Ordinance No. 10 of 1855, for regulating weights and measures, the bushel measure for salt is made to contain 35 imperial quarts.

England. The whole buildings will, I hope, be finished shortly, but it is difficult now to get competent stone cutters and masons.

15. The residence occupied by the former Presidents known as "Waterloo" has been repaired, enlarged and furnished, which the Commissioner occupies as a tenant, and pays as a rental 24*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* per annum, so fixed as being equivalent to five per cent. of the cost of all the repairs and furniture.

16. Two large iron buoys have been placed at Cockburn harbour to increase the safety of vessels loading there with salt.

17. The cleaning out of the channel at Cooks Hole, Salt Cay, was completed by the contractor, and the sea wall to protect the town was commenced. This work, and the office at Cockburn Harbour, which I regret has not yet been commenced, have both been contemplated for two or three years, but it is difficult to get stonecutters for the quarries here, and all the improvements that require masons and stonecutters are consequently proceeding slowly.

19. Amongst the minor works, the town hall at Salt Cay was reshingled and painted, several of the schools were repaired and supplied with proper fittings, and a light has been purchased and is exhibited nightly from sunset to sunrise from a staff erected on the public wharf at Grand Turk as a guide to vessels arriving in the roadstead.

Legislation.

20. Eight Ordinances were passed during the year, the principal being Ordinance No. 4 "to Amend the Land Ordinance of 1855," by which the time is now limited within which persons in the occupation of Crown lands can obtain grants.

21. Ordinance No. 6 for the Management of the General Cemetery recently enclosed at Grand Turk.

22. Ordinance No. 7 to continue in force for a further period of five years the law providing for the collection of a special rate for the improvement of the Salt Pond property held in common by the proprietors and for fixing the maximum value of salt for the Government royalty at 3½*d.* per bushel.

23. Ordinance No. 8 to amend the tariff by which considerable reductions have been made in the import duties, especially on articles of food, such as fish, hominy, molasses, coffee, corns, beans, &c. which are all now free.

Civil Establishment.

24. Mr. A. G. Wynns, assistant commissioner at Grand Turk, who had been colonial surveyor and police magistrate for many years, retired on a pension early in the year, and his place has not yet been permanently filled; Mr. W. J. Anderson, the judge of the Supreme Court, was absent for nine months in Jamaica, acting as a district court judge there, and his place has been filled by Mr. J. M. Rae, the assistant commissioner at Cockburn Harbour.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Pensions.

25. The pension list was increased by the following: A. G. Wynns, late assistant commissioner, Grand Turk, and Ishmael Adams, late constable, and no deaths occurred amongst the pensioners.

Education.

26. The following report prepared by me as chairman of the Board of Education was laid before the Legislative Board of these Islands, and shows what has been done under the new system and increased expenditure during the year.

Report on Education for the Year 1884.

In presenting to the Legislative Board the first summarized report of the results, as far as figures go, of the reports received from the several schoolmasters who commenced their work under the new system of education on the 1st of January 1884, it is difficult for me to express any opinion, beyond what these returns show, as to the progress the schools have made, as they have not been examined by an expert, and I have no data at hand with which to make comparisons.

2. It is estimated that there are about 1,140 children in these islands, between the ages of 6 and 13, who ought to attend the public schools, whilst I find 707 names on the books, with an average daily attendance of 457.

3. These are figures upon which it will have to be decided hereafter whether the compulsory clauses of the law shall be put in operation; but I am led to believe they do show that it will not be necessary and are encouraging for a beginning.

4. Under the old system, the average attendance was about 55 per cent., but, in the first six months of last year, the attendance of those on the books averaged 66½ per cent., though, for the whole year, it has fallen to 64½ per cent., and this is only 40 per cent. of the estimated number of children that ought to attend, as between the school ages of 6 and 13.

5. The Board of Education are well aware of the poverty of many of the people here and of the possible hardship that it might be to some parents to compel them to send their children to school for four days in the week, and a circular letter was, consequently, issued to the schoolmasters in July, urging them to remind the parents of the children that, unless they availed themselves of the advantages now given them of good schools, the law would be made compulsory.

6. Some of the masters, however, still complain of the want of sympathy and co-operation of the parents in this respect, and the attendance has slightly decreased in the last half of the year.

7. If it was understood that the compulsory sections of the Ordnance would be put in operation, at the end of the year

in the district that showed the lowest average attendance, or, in all that did not come up to a fixed standard, perhaps a little better results might be even further attained.

8. The Board of Education is moved only in this matter by an earnest desire to secure the instruction of as many children as possible, and it is for their good it is working.

9. The amount of the fees collected is, I know, small, and considering the low rate demanded of only 1*d.* per week for each child, with a maximum of 3*d.* from any one parent or guardian, irrespecsive of the number of children sent to school from one family, it strikes me, from an examination of the masters' returns, that there might be some improvement under that heading.

10. I hope, therefore, the parents have only to be reminded of this, to show their appreciation of the efforts being made by the Government in the cause of education, and that, in future, they will more willingly contribute and so encourage the teacher, to whom the whole of the fees will be awarded in all cases where the school is favourably reported on by the inspector at the biennial examination.

11. The Government grant of 600*l.* per annum, about one tenth of the total expenditure of the Dependency, is liberal and was spent last year as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries at the six schools - -	443	0	0
Gratuities to teachers - -	15	1	6
School appliances - - -	32	19	7
Rent of school house - -	5	12	0
Part of expenses of inspection in 1883	26	0	0
Miscellaneous - - -	4	5	7
	526	18	8

12. There was also a sum of 100*l.* voted last year for fitting up the new schools, of which 55*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* was spent, and the balance of 45*l.* has been re-voted this year.

13. A sewing mistress has been appointed at Grand Turk school, and it is in contemplation to appoint one at Kew, Caicos, and to further extend the number of the schools as the funds voted will permit.

14. It is proposed that the Inspector from Jamaica should visit here in June, and I hope the results of his examination will be satisfactory, and convince the Legislative Board that the efforts of the Board of Education here have not been wasted, and that a fair start has been made towards the general education of the people.

15. Finally, I beg to record that the several masters, mistresses, and monitors, have all worked diligently and are showing a cheerful interest in their work.

(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
Chairman of the Board of Education.

28th January 1885.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

School Returns, Turks and Caicos Islands, for the year 1884.

Name of School.	Estimated Number of Children between the age of 6 and 13.	No. on Books.	Average daily Attendance.	No. of days School in operation.	Amount of Fees collected.
					£ *s.* *d.*
Grand Turk -	550	308	186	230	21 10 6
Salt Cay - -	150	73	48	206*	5 19 6
Cockburn Harbour -	120	95	54	164†	5 2 10
Kew - -	120	89	56	191	1 1 11
Blue Hills - -	100	79	61	226	8 1 0
Lorimers - -	100	63	52	78‡	—
Total -	1,140	707	457	—	41 15 9

* School opened 10th February.
† „ „ 9th March.
‡ „ „ 1st September.

General Remarks.

27. The Islands were visited in March last by His Excellency Sir Henry Wylie Norman, Governor-in-Chief. No other event of special note occurred except a hurricane in the neighbourhood of the Dependency on the 15th October, which blew four vessels ashore that were lying at anchor in the roadsteads, but fortunately did no serious damage ashore.

28. There was a very good demand for salt, and consequently at the end of the year the price improved owing to the stock being reduced to a very small quantity.

29. The winding up of the public bank is progressing very satisfactorily, and I can safely assert that there has been considerable advancement in the general prosperity of the salt rakers as well as in the public finances which closed the year with a surplus of 2,500*l.* in the public chest in addition to a reserve of 1,000*l.* previously funded in stock in England, and I have great hope that the Dependency has made financially and otherwise a start forward which will continue.

(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
Commissioner.

Turks Islands,
29th January 1885.

BAHAMAS.

No. 4.

Governor H. A. BLAKE to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

Government House, Nassau,
March 28, 1885.

MY LORD,

1. I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1884.

2. Before proceeding to notice its various divisions in detail it occurs to me that a few general observations may not be without interest.

3. It may be broadly stated that the mine from which all the information as to the Bahamas has been extracted for the past 20 years is the admirable and exhaustive report made by Governor Rawson to accompany the Blue Book of 1864, but presented to Parliament on 20th July 1866. That report contains elaborate tables of temperature, rainfall, &c. I find from observation that such tables, however valuable for scientific purposes, give no idea to the lay reader of the physical effects of climate. A temperature of 75 in calm weather may be oppressive to the extent of extreme discomfort, while, with a breeze from any direction, 10 degrees higher may feel comparatively cool and pleasant. In July last year I left Nassau, when the temperature was 86 and, from the absence of wind, extremely hot, to visit the islands lying to the south-east. At Inagua, which is within the belt of trade wind, with the thermometer at 92 it felt considerably cooler, and even in driving over the Savannah in the noonday sun the constant breeze prevented any feeling of oppressive heat. The climate of the Bahamas in the winter months cannot be surpassed, and in summer the cool sea breezes assuage the heat of these latitudes. Then the hottest place in the Colony is the city of Nassau, which, being built along the flat strip of land about 300 yards wide that runs from east to west between the harbour and the ridge on which Government House is situated, is shut out from the prevailing southerly breezes. I have known the thermometer stand at 92 in the town, when at Government House it was only 86, and the discomfort is increased by the dazzling glare from the white streets. The out islands offer many attractive spots as health resorts, but the want of accommodation prevents their being visited by any of the people who annually flock to Nassau to escape from the rigour of the American winter. There can be

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no doubt of the benefit derived by visitors affected with pulmonary complaints, but it is by no means certain that the climate is equally beneficial to persons affected by neuralgia, the alternations of temperature in spring being sudden, and sometimes ranging from five to ten degrees in 24 hours.

4. To the geographical branch of that report there is little to be added. The size of the island of Abaco is, however, considerably overstated, the late survey made by Lieut. White of H.M.S. "Sparrowhawk" showing that at least one half the bank hitherto marked as Abaco is covered with water. The island of Abaco will thus assume in future maps a shape somewhat similar to that of Eleuthera, being a strip of coral rock on the eastward edge of the little Bahama bank. The general formation and aspect of the islands of the Archipelago are now pretty well known. Low long masses of conglomerate rock, formed of finely comminuted coral and shells, are clothed with dense and evergreen vegetation, except where here and there portions have been cleared for the cultivation of fruit or ground crops. Soil there appears to be very little, save where in places a deposit of red earth is irregularly scattered, that rarely covers the rock more than a few inches, while more generally it is found in patches in the hollows. This is probably the same formation as the red earth of South America, the fertility of which is so well known, and is peculiarly suitable for the growth of pine apples, to the production of which almost all the red soil of these islands is devoted. The black earth, in which pine apples are also grown, appears to be vegetable mould, but I cannot find that either of these soils have yet been analysed. The treatment of both is identical. Having cut down the bush, and burnt it, pine apples or other crops are grown, without the use of any fertilizer, until that portion is exhausted. It is then abandoned, and the same process repeated in an adjoining patch or lot. In from 15 to 20 years the continuous fall of leaves from the quick growth of bush that springs up on the abandoned ground restores to a certain extent its lost fertility, and a rough rotation is thus established. I have reason to hope that a better system of agriculture will soon be adopted.

5. The island of Andros differs in many respects from the other islands of the group. It is called by Governor Rawson the largest island of the Bahamas, but it is really an archipelago in itself. Even as shown on the map it consists of North Andros, Bigwood Cay, Mangrove Cay, and South Andros, separated by North, South, and Middle Bights with their ramifications. Recent exploration shows that North Andros has in the centre a large and deep freshwater lake, resting on a bottom of impervious marl, so that unlike the rainfall in other islands, it is not mixed with salt water percolating through the porous rock. In the rainy season the lake overflows, and communicates with Stafford Creek, and Fresh Creek on the east, and Deep Creek, Pumpion lake and Wide Opening on the west. South Andros is somewhat similarly formed, communications existing between Deep Creek, Barton

Creek, Grassy Creek, and Hawksbill Creek, thus forming a number of cays and extensive swamps. The stratum of fine marl extends from the centre along the west coast of Andros between the 24th and 25th degrees of latitude.

6. Alternating with these lakes, creeks, and swamps are extensive pine ridges where pine, Madeira, mahogany, horseflesh, and other valuable timber grows to a marketable size. The swamps of the interior would produce rice, small crops of which have been grown. During the American Civil War a considerable quantity of turpentine was distilled by an American company, and the profitable production of this substance is only prevented by the high tariff of the United States.

7. In this Colony there are but few capitalists. It may not therefore be out of place to point out another investment that offers favourable results. While certain localities are suitable for the growth of pine apples, oranges, and cocoanuts, there is not a spot in these islands where the *Agave Americana* or pita plant, the *Aloe vulgaris* or "wild bamboo," and kindred fibre plants will not grow readily; indeed the two named plants are now growing with wild luxuriance in the barest and most sterile spots. Machines for the removal of the fleshy part of the leaf have been introduced, and I hope to see the fibre yet form a valuable addition to the exports of the Colony.

8. On my visit to the Biminis, I anchored at night off the harbour mouth, with a light breeze from the west. In the morning I observed three large ships well to the south, but the wind veering to the south during the day all three were obliged to put back to the north and anchor on the north-west corner of the Great Bahama bank to wait for a favourable shift of wind. I found on inquiry that, especially in summer, with its prevailing southerly winds, numbers of ships are so detained as they cannot make headway against the five knot stream, and none but the handiest vessels can beat up the narrow streak of dead water between the stream and the bank obstructed here and there by dangerous reefs. Remembering that a very large proportion of the gulf trade passes along this course it seems to me that here would be a favourable opening for a powerful tug boat drawing 7½ feet. She could lie in perfect safety in the harbour of Bimini and tow weather-bound ships to Orange Bay, 50 miles to the south, where they can get sufficient slant of wind. When not so engaged she could be utilized in carrying freight from Bimini to Key West or Jacksonville, and would, I have no doubt, be a paying investment.

The revenue collected was 45,475*l.* 4*s.*, being 7,000*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* less than in 1883.

The expenditure has been 45,788*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, as against 54,584*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* in 1883.

Of the decrease in the revenue, 6,882*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* was in import duties, in consequence of a large increase of production of home crops.

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Crown Land Revenue.

10. The amount of Crown land revenue was 625*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, which added to 2,388*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* balance from last year makes 3,013*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* The expenditure was 1,334*l.* 12*s.*, leaving a balance of 1,678*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*

Salt Pond Fund.

11. The salt pond revenue was 82*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, which with a balance of 593*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* from 1883 made a total of 676*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* The expenditure was 327*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, leaving a balance of 348*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* The expenditure of this fund and the Crown Land Fund has been increased by a grant of 553*l.* 11*s.* in aid of the sufferers by the hurricane of 1883, a moiety of which sum is borne by each fund.

Widows and Orphans' Fund.

12. Of this fund 2,534*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* has been paid in pensions. The receipts were 1,057*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* The balance at end of 1883 was 10,636*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* At the end of 1884 it was reduced to 9,100*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* At this rate of absorption if no change be made in the arrangements the fund will cease to exist in about six years. I purpose considering the question this year.

Public Debt.

13. The public debt was reduced by a payment of 500*l.*, and at the close of the year stood at 48,126*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* borrowed at 5 per cent.

Public Works.

14. There was a large increase in the expenditure on public works caused by repairs of the damage caused by the hurricane of 1883. A new item in the regular expenditure is the expense of dredging the harbour, for which purpose a dredge and hopper have been procured. The annual expense will be between 1,000*l.* and 1,500*l.*, but as there is no available engineering skill in the Colony, and the work of deepening portions of the harbour is to be performed by men who know nothing of such operations, I am not prepared to hazard an opinion as to the probable success of the undertaking.

Legislation.

15. Twenty-three Acts of Legislature were passed in 1884, the most important of which were the Tariff Act, 47 Vict. c. 8., and an Act granting an additional annual sum of 500*l.* for educational purposes.

Education.

16. There are 32 board schools now in existence, being an increase of four over the number opened last year. The number of children in attendance has considerably increased. The opening of new schools has been retarded by the difficulty of obtaining teachers. The salaries, which range from 45*l.* to 150*l.*, and average 58*l.*, do not seem to attract young men here. Possibly an appeal to the Board of Education at home might enable this Colony to obtain the services of trained young men. During the year the Board of Education has tried the experiment of placing technical education within the reach of the youths of Nassau, by authorising the payment of 50*l.* annually for two years to an Italian cameo cutter on condition that he trains eight or nine boys in that art. So far the experiment is not very hopeful, but four boys having presented themselves as candidates. The cutting of the conch shells into ornaments might possibly turn out a useful and remunerative industry.

Course of Exchange.

17. Although writing for the Blue Book of 1884, events which have taken place at the date of this Report throw light on the high rate of exchange between this Colony and London *Viâ* New York. There has been for some time a certain amount of over trading, induced partly by the truck system, partly by an unbusinesslike facility for obtaining accommodation in the public bank. Bills on London or New York offered in the market were tendered for at three, four, and even five per cent. The payment of this amount, however, did not represent a transfer of specie, but was frequently made by cheque upon an already overdrawn account. The consequence has been the gradual shipping of specie to America and England, which could be done for about one and three-quarters per cent. The expiring of this system of over credit has put a stop to overdrafts on banking accounts, and at the same time it has been found that over 20,000*l.* in specie has been shipped from the Colony within fourteen months. The consequence is that bills on London and New York are now selling for specie at par.

Imports.

18. The value of imports in 1884 was 181,494*l.* as against the sum of 233,144*l.* in 1883. Of this sum the value of wrecks and derelict vessels was 12,304*l.* leaving a nett value of imports of 169,190*l.* Although this is a considerable decrease from the imports of last year, that were, as I have shown, unduly inflated by the misfortunes of the previous year, the amount is not far below the average of the past five years.

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Exports.

19. The total amount of exports was 122,351*l.* as against 147,626*l.* the total of the exports of 1883. But deducting from this sum the value of external produce the value of the produce of the Colony exported was 102,711*l.* as against 110,388*l.* in 1883. There has been a decrease in the export of sponge to the amount of 4,700*l.* and in pine apples of 3,000*l.*

Shipping.

20. The number of sailing vessels entered in 1884 was 269, with 23,653 tons of cargo, and 81, with 10,759 tons of ballast. The number cleared was 301, with 30,088 tons of cargo, and 68 with 5,921 tons of ballast, of steam vessels 54 entered, with 74,801 tons of cargo and 3 with 199 tons of ballast, and there cleared 55 with 76,602 tons cargo, and 2 with 99 tons ballast. The inter-colonial trade is carried on in small schooners of from 15 to 40 tons, of which there are over 1,500 in the Colony.

Agriculture.

21. Of this subject I can only speak in general terms, as so far no reliable information has been obtained. I intend to have some exertion made during the current year to obtain some statistical information. Wherever estates are cultivated they are in almost every case cultivated on the Metairie system. Indeed, it is the only possible system here except the owner is living upon the spot and daily superintending the labour. The rate of wages is fallacious, as the labour is not half as valuable, probably not one third as valuable, as labour at home. The working hours are from seven a.m. to four p.m. with an hour's rest for dinner, and I need hardly say that during the eight working hours the labour in this climate is not what could be expected in more temperate countries. Almost all properties are here cut up into small holdings. Where properties remain intact portions are worked by different people on the share system, where not alone is the cultivation of the rudest kind, but the absentee proprietor rarely receives more than a nominal share of the real proceeds. In the island of Eleuthera the first step has been taken in improving the cultivation of pine apples so as to enable the Bahama pines to compete in quality with the pine apples from Cuba and Florida. I am watching this experiment carefully, and the Board of Agriculture has engaged the services of Mr. Gardiner, a gentleman trained at Owen's College, whose analysis of soils and fertilizers may result in the extensive use of our own cave earth the sale of which for export I have discouraged until its value has been tested. There has also been shown an inclination to extend the growth of cotton, and to encourage which the Board of Agriculture has imported two new cotton gins which

with the five already in the Colony we propose to sell to associate members in different localities on most advantageous terms as to price and repayment. This I consider the best principle, as I disapprove of gratuitous assistance from a central board, and wish to develop a feeling of independence and self help in the out islands. The planting of cocoa nuts still continues and the crop will doubtless prove profitable in the future; but after the fruit crop I look to the growth of fibre plants as the most hopeful addition to our products. The plants take care of themselves; will grow anywhere; cannot be stolen, and, the fibre once extracted, will not injure by keeping, and can be thus placed upon the market at a proper time. Until some staple product of the kind can be grown the income of the Colony must be precarious. This year, 1884, there was an exceptionally good crop of oranges; but the Florida crop was equally good, and glutted the American market, added to which their superior system of picking and packing the fruit was certain to command the market to the exclusion of our Bahama oranges, which are of quite as good, if not superior, quality. The consequence has been that a great part of the crop remained unsold, and rotted on the trees, while the 1,838,080 exported, sold at an average rate of 2*s.* 2*d.* per hundred as against 2*s.* 9*d.* per hundred at which the 415,900 sold last year. I have spoken to our largest shipper of fruit on the subject, and he is considering the advisability of obtaining next year the services of one or two trained packers from Florida, that the experiment may be tried of presenting the Bahama fruit to the American buyers in the best manner. The growing feeling in England against fruits preserved in tins will, I fear, put an end to the packing of preserved pine apples here, as the expenses of procuring glass or earthenware jars would more than absorb the profits, while I have no doubt that under certain circumstances improperly soldered tins might render the contents injurious. The system of soldering employed here appeared to preclude the possibility of contact of the solder with the contents.

22. Eight hundred and four acres of Crown land were granted in 1884. I have been informed that at Andros island there has been for some years a large immigration of squatters, especially at Long Bay Cay on the South Island. Mr. Forsyth, the Deputy-Surveyor, informed me that in 1877 he was sent to survey land then occupied and to prevent further squatting. At that time the people showed an inclination to pay for the lands occupied by them, but for some reasons not fully explained to me orders were given not to proceed against those who refused. From that time there has been a constant stream of squatters from Exuma, where they had exhausted their farms, and so destructive have been their operations that a great portion of the pine forest that clothed the centre of the island has been destroyed while their patches are being quickly worked out. Each new comer cuts down a patch wherever it pleases him, and burns it in dry weather, the fire extending to the surrounding forest, and burning not alone the bush, but the vegetable soil that would otherwise be

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richly productive. Mr. Forsyth stated that in 1877 he surveyed a forest 15 miles by 3, of which scarcely a vestige now remains. This may ultimately have a serious effect upon the rainfall of Andros and New Providence, and besides, the entire absence of discipline has a most pernicious effect upon that portion of the population. Mr. Forsyth, who lives on Andros, is of opinion that the squatting has gone so far that it cannot now be checked. I am considering the matter, and incline to the opinion that, in the interests of the people, no less than of the Crown, such lawless and destructive usurpation of the Crown land must be stopped at all hazards.

Prison.

23. There has been a great and most gratifying decrease in the number of persons committed to prison, the daily average being 59·59 against 91 in 1883. The number of offences of all kinds reported was slightly in excess of last year; but the offences against property and prædial larceny sank from 396 to 227 and the number of persons committed for trial in the superior courts from 45 to 26. The state of the prison is very satisfactory, and the mark system which has been lately introduced is found to work well.

Hospital.

24. The daily average of the indoor patients of New Providence Asylum was 70·6 as against 82·18 in 1883. The number of cases was 274, and of deaths 70, or ·25 as against ·27 last year. This is a high average, but the people are extremely averse to entering the asylum until the "bush" remedies with which they usually begin the treatment of their diseases have failed. A large proportion of the patients are therefore in an advanced state of disease when they enter, and at the best, the coloured population are peculiar susceptible to the attacks of phthisis, bronchitis or pneumonia, against which their system offers a comparatively feeble resistance.

Leper Hospital.

24. The Leper Hospital is attached to the New Providence Asylum. There are but two patients, who are not confined to the leper wards, but mix with the other patients during the day. The Surgeon-Superintendent is of opinion that the disease is not contagious, and no instance is authenticated here of its having been communicated otherwise than by heredity.

St. Andrew's Society.

25. There is also a charitable society here numbering 40 members, who assist persons of the better classes in distress.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) HENRY A. BLAKE,
The Earl of Derby, K.G. Governor.
&c. &c.

TRINIDAD.

No. 5.

Governor Sir A. E. HAVELOCK, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

MY LORD, June 25, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book returns of this Colony for the year 1884, with a report thereon bv Mr. Scott Bushe, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office
April 25, 1885.

NOTES ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY FOR 1884.

Taxes and Duties.

1. No change, with the exception of the export duty on produce, which was reduced from 6*s.* 6*d.* per hogshead of sugar to 6*s.*, a corresponding reduction being made in the duty in respect of rum, molasses, cocoa and coffee.

The entire proceeds of this tax are credited to the immigration fund. The yield during 1884 was 40,676*l.* 19*s.* 1½*d.*, as compared with 38,771*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* in 1883.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

	£	s.	d.
Total revenue collected - -	476,058	4	2½
The revenue of 1883 from same sources (exclusive of Port of Spain Waterworks, 1,600*l.* and transport train, 2,468*l.* 7*s.* 6½*d.*, amount to -	458,344	13	0
Excess - - -	17,713	11	2½

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An analysis of the receipts under the several heads of service shows that customs and excise yielded—

	£	s.	d.
In 1884 - - -	269,458	13	6
Against in 1883 - -	262,589	5	8½
Or an excess of - -	6,869	7	9½

	1883.			1884.			Increase.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Immigration - - -	38,771	12	6½	40,676	19	1½	1,905	6	7
Land sales - - -	13,068	8	1½	14,011	5	5½	941	17	4
Licenses - - - -	21,545	14	5	22,405	12	6½	859	18	1½
Taxes - - - -	28,239	7	3½	29,244	8	11½	1,005	1	8
Postage - - - -	4,896	13	1	5,533	17	1	637	4	0
Fines, &c. - - -	8,227	1	1	8,491	7	11½	264	6	10½
Fees of office - - -	3,167	13	10	3,258	3	5	90	9	7
Reimbursements in aid - -	16,555	7	4½	16,952	13	6	397	6	1½
Interest - - - -	2,196	5	7	2,776	18	5	580	12	10
Government tramways - -	2,206	14	1	2,873	7	2	666	13	1
Railway traffic receipts - -	49,224	9	10	51,365	7	2½	2,140	17	4½

The above are the principal items of increase. There was a falling off under the following heads:—

	1883.			1884.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Land Revenue - - -	741	5	6	596	19	3	144	6	3
Sale of Government property -	189	16	7	173	0	10	16	15	9
Miscellaneous receipts - -	722	2	0½	372	5	11½	349	16	1
Legacy duty - - -	748	11	8½	32	16	5½	715	15	3
Cipero tramroad - -	1,960	0	0	1,160	0	0	800	0	0
Chaguanas tramroad - -	160	0	0	137	1	8	22	18	4
S. Naparima, W. ward - -	407	12	2	10	10	0	397	2	2
Sewerage works - - -	468	3	0	319	17	2	148	5	10
Rent - - - -	873	15	0	728	17	1	144	17	11

	£	s.	d.
The total expenditure of 1884 amounts to - - (including 1,600*l.* for Port of Spain waterworks and 1,294*l.* 6*s.* 7½*d.* for pelican and dredger which do not figure in the receipts for 1883).	471,189	14	11½
Against a total expenditure in 1883 of - - -	464,430	3	6½
Excess - -	6,759	11	5

	1883.			1884.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Establishments - - -	149,104	10	8	150,065	16	11½
Pensions - - - - -	6,212	10	7	6,582	3	0

Services exclusive of Establishments.

	1883.			1884.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Administration of justice - - -	2,978	10	8½	2,982	8	4
Ecclesiastical - - - -	11,236	4	7½	10,474	12	8
Education - - - - -	14,559	8	4½	15,156	15	11
Police - - - -	6,831	3	2½	7,262	17	0½
Gaols - - - - -	5,956	16	7	6,190	3	4½
Hospitals - - - - -	28,790	17	10	28,533	6	5½
Rent - - - - -	2,827	15	8½	2,503	12	5½
Conveyance of mails - - -	3,384	3	7	3,626	16	0
Postage - - - - -	5,223	19	7½	3,003	9	5½
Immigration - - - - -	43,520	13	9	69,838	2	5½
Miscellaneous services - - -	7,497	19	1	9,804	13	9½
Interest - - - - -	4,200	0	11	2,475	13	1½
Drawbacks and refund of duties - -	5,776	11	9½	6,030	17	6½
Interest on debentures - - -	—			551	0	0
Redemption of debentures - - -	950	0	0	1,150	0	0
Railway working expenses - - -	22,847	4	9½	18,732	5	5
Railway interest and sinking fund - -	32,330	19	4	32,597	16	1
Telegraph - - - - -	5,125	0	0	6,000	0	0
Stationery - - - - -	1,648	17	4½	1,891	0	1½
Botanic gardens - - - -	1,537	13	9½	1,465	14	11
Public works - - - - -	93,093	14	3	72,806	4	0½
Wards - - - - -	6,480	17	6	6,726	5	7
Government dairy - - -	1,086	10	2½	847	11	0

These constitute the principal items of expenditure.

The item "Miscellaneous services" includes charges for:—

	£
Maintenance of Government House and grounds - - - -	314
Lighting do. by gas - - -	202
Grant to Port of Spain races - -	200
Do. public library - - -	300
Contribution to Police band - -	200
Fire brigade - - - -	552
Contribution and capitation allowance to Volunteer corps - - -	347
Chemicals, &c., for laboratory - -	120
Quarantine expenses - - -	250
Survey of lands - - - -	2,324
Correcting the map of the Island -	535
Removal of night soil from Government institutions - - - -	412
Allowance to troops in lieu of rebate of customs duties - - - -	534

3. *Local Revenues.*

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Port of Spain - - -	17,120 5 4½	19,182 12 5
San Fernando - - -	4,875 17 10½	5,576 2 11

The borough councils of Port of Spain and San Fernando are charged with the administration of their own funds. Their revenue is derived principally from a house and land tax, which in Port of Spain was in 1884 at the rate of 5 per cent. on rent or annual value of the real estate situate within the borough, and in San Fernando at the rate of 7 per cent.

The house rate in San Fernando yielded 1,758*l.* 7*s.* 6½*d.*

4. *Public Debt.*

The debt due by the Colony amounted on 31st December to 590,640*l.* Of this 575,040*l.* is for railway construction, 4,600*l.* is the balance of a guaranteed loan of 15,000*l.* raised for the construction of a tramroad at San Fernando, and 11,000*l.* for the improvement and extension of the Port of Spain Waterworks.

5. *Legislation.*

Twenty-two Ordinances, of which a list of the titles is appended, were enacted during the year:—

No. 1.—An Ordinance for the better preservation of the peace.

No. 2.—To amend the Ordinance No. 6 of 1868, intituled "An Ordinance for rendering certain offences punishable on summary conviction."

No. 3.—To amend the law relating to premises licensed for the retail of intoxicating liquors.

No. 4.—For the government of a Volunteer Fire Brigade within the town of San Fernando.

No. 5.—To amend the Ordinance No. 10 of 1853, intituled "An Ordinance for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in this Island."

No. 6.—For regulating the laying out of new streets, and the construction of buildings in the town of San Fernando.

No. 7.—To authorise the election of more than two auditors in any ward.

No. 8.—To amend the law as to explosive substances.

No. 9.—To amend the law as to malicious injury to property.

No. 10.—To amend "The summary conviction Ordinance, 1884."

No. 11.—To ratify and confirm the supplemental estimates for the service of the year 1883, and the issue of certain moneys paid

for the service of the Government of the Colony during the same year.

No. 12.—To amend the law as to proceedings in criminal cases.

No. 13.—To consolidate and amend the law as to juries.

No. 14.—To codify the law relating to bills of exchange, cheques, and promissory notes.

No. 15.—To consolidate and amend the law for preventing frauds upon creditors by secret bills of sale of personal chattels.

No. 16.—To amend the laws relating to the property of married women.

No. 17.—To amend the Ordinance No. 10 of 1853, intituled "An Ordinance for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in "this Island.

No. 18.—To amend the law as to the execution and registration of deeds.

No. 19.—Further to amend the law as to malicious injury to property.

No. 20.—To make provision for defraying the expenses of the Government of this Colony for the year 1885.

No. 21.—For raising funds in aid of immigration for the year 1885.

No. 22.—For simplifying and improving the practice of conveyancing, and for vesting in trustees, mortgagees, and others, various powers commonly conferred by provisions inserted in settlements, mortgages, wills, and other instruments; and for amending in various particulars the law of property; and for other purposes.

Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 10 had their origin in the Carnival disturbances of 1881 and 1883.

The destructive fires which had taken place in Port of Spain and San Fernando, and which in the majority of cases were supposed to be due to incendiarism, called for more repressive legislation on this subject, and Ordinances 9 and 19 were passed, imposing a much severer penalty than was formerly prescribed for the crime of arson.

A Volunteer Fire Brigade was also organised for San Fernando under Ordinance No. 4, on the model of the Port of Spain Brigade, and a building Ordinance, No. 6, was substituted for that of the previous year, which was declared by the local authorities to be unsuited to the circumstances of the town.

The penalty for importing prohibited explosives was rendered more severe by Ordinance No. 8, and the offence is now punishable by a fine of 500*l.* and imprisonment with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding 10 years.

Public Works.

The total expenditure on public works, exclusive of establishment charges, amounted to 72,806*l.*, of which 46,582*l.* were expended in the maintenance and construction of roads and 23,588*l.* in the repair, &c. of buildings. No new buidings of any magni-

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tude were erected. Provision was made in the estimates for the commencement of a new lunatic asylum, for which a site at St. Ann's was purchased some time ago, but the plans have not yet been settled, and as it is held that the present is not an opportune moment to embark on any large expenditure on unremunerative public works, the delay is not to be regretted.

The railway, although under the management of the Director of Public Works, constitutes a separate head of service. The working expenses in 1884 amounted to 18,732*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, and the establishment charges to 17,707*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, making a total of 36,439*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*

The traffic receipts, &c. amounted to 51,365*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.* The debenture interest and sinking fund on the loans was 32,597*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, so that the account for 1884 showed a debit balance of 17,671*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.* Viewed as a commercial speculation this would be a most unsatisfactory balance sheet, but this deficit cannot be altogether regarded as an actual loss to the Colony, for it is probable that the expenditure on maintaining the main lines of road communication, large though it be, would have been considerably augmented had the railway not been established, and in addition to the facilities of locomotion subsidies formerly paid for maintaining postal services have been saved which must not be lost sight of. The indirect contributions to the revenue arising from the opening up of lands, and from the increase of cultivation in districts traversed by the railway, are also considerable.

7. *Councils and Assemblies.*

In the Executive Council, Major Bowles, North Staffordshire Regiment, as senior officer in command of the troops, was sworn as a member in the place of Major Cunningham, Royal Scots, the detachment of the latter regiment having been relieved.

The only change in the Legislative Council was the appointment of Mr. Fenwick as a permanent unofficial member in the room of Mr. A. P. Marryat, who, having left the Colony, resigned his seat. Mr. Fenwick had previously been acting in the same capacity during Mr. Marryat's absence.

8. *Civil Establishment.*

Few changes of importance occurred during the year.

On 27th March Sir S. Freeling left the Colony on leave of absence, and resigned at the end of the year. During his absence the Government was administered by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. Scott Bushe, till the arrival, on the 19th June, of Sir F. Barlee, who had been appointed Lieutenant Governor.

Sir F. Barlee died on the 7th August, and the administration again devolved on the Colonial Secretary. Mr. Hill's death in October caused a vacancy in the office of Assistant Engineer, in the Public Works Department, which was filled by the appointment of Mr. P. Stevens.

Mr. R. Needham, Stipendiary Magistrate for the county of Caroni died in October, and Mr. W. Llewellyn Lewis was sent out by the Secretary of State to fill the office.

A vacancy was caused in the Medical Department by the lamented death of Dr. Arnold, Health Officer of Shipping, &c., Dr. Pasley was promoted to the offices held by him. Dr. B. Rake was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Leper Asylum and Messrs. E. Doyle, J. H. Zepero and T. J. de Montbrun were appointed Supernumerary Surgeons.

9. *Pensions.*

The following pensions lapsed, viz., one payable to Mr. A. P. Wears of 13*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, and one to Mr. S. Devenish, junr., of 113*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*

The additions to the pension list were:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Mr. J. J. Meagher, late Superintendent of Public Works - - - -	128	6	8
H. Sanois, compositor in printing office -	26	6	7½
E. Manning, nurse, San Fernando Hospital - - - - -	12	0	0

The total expenditure for pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities was 6,582*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*

10. *Political Franchise.*

The number of registered electors in the borough of Port of Spain at the date of the last election was 546 and in San Fernando 141. The number of voters at last election was in the former town 73, in the latter 21. These figures do not show that representative institutions are much prized in this Island.

11. *Foreign Consuls.*

Mr. Isaac Periera was appointed consul for the Republic of Columbia in the place of Dr. de Montbrun and Mr. Lucien F. Ambard was appointed Consul for the Netherlands, which country was not before represented in Trinidad.

12. *Population.*

The return of vital statistics prepared by the Registrar General shows that there was 5,696 births registered during the year and 4,585 deaths. The marriages numbered 692. The population is estimated to be 166,628, and according to this estimate the birth rate would be 34·18 per 1000, the mortality 27·52, and the marriage rate 4·15.

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13. *Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.*

3,147 immigrants were introduced from India; 677 returned to their homes. There were 3,361 depositors in the Government Savings Bank, an increase of 341 over the previous year. The deposits on the 1st January 1884 amounted to 75,351*l.*, on the 31st December they had increased to 85,555*l.*, the deposits during the year being 75,468*l.*, and the withdrawals 65,264*l.* The Indian immigrant population avails itself to a large extent of the Savings Bank, and would probably do so to a still greater extent if facilities for the deposit of their money could be afforded to them. At present there are only two banks at which money can be lodged, one at Port of Spain and the other in San Fernando.

The journey to and from these centres would cost a depositor a considerable percentage of a small deposit, and the beneficial operation of the bank is thus neutralized. The plan of sending a collecting clerk to the more important villages was tried, and had to be abandoned at the close of the year.

14. *Education.*

The number of scholars at the Queen's Royal College was 60 and at the affiliated Roman Catholic College of the Immaculate Conception 167. The numbers attending the Model Schools were, at the boys' 179, and at the girls' 176.

At the Port of Spain Eastern Boys' School the attendance averaged 136 and at the girls and infants school 89. At the Port of Spain Western School the number on the roll was 235, viz., 58 boys and 177 girls. The Borough Council of Port of Spain contributes 500*l.* per annum towards the maintenance of the three last mentioned schools, the expense of which was 904*l.*, less 192*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* received for fees. There were 50 district schools entirely supported by the Government at a cost of 6,906*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* The fees collected in these schools amounted to 968*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* The number of scholars on the roll was, boys 2,344, girls 1,560, total 3,904.

In addition to the above, 57 denominational schools were partly aided by the Government, the amount of the state contribution being 3,012*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*; of these 23 were Roman Catholic, 12 Church of England, 21 Coolie Mission, and 1 Wesleyan. The number of scholars on the rolls of these schools was 5,182 of whom 2,751 were boys, and 2,431 girls.

The San Fernando Borough Council maintains its own schools at a cost of 953*l.* 2*s.* 0*d.*. The attendance thereat is 65 boys and 43 girls.

There are two industrial schools and orphan asylums in the Island: one Roman Catholic at which 68 boys and 60 girls were maintained at a cost to the Government in 1884 of 1,045*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, and one Church of England which provides for 25 boys and 29 girls, the Government contribution being 714*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*

The list also includes 20 coolie and estate schools, which are maintained by the Presbyterian denomination, supplemented by a Government contribution in 1884 of 250*l.* The total number of scholars on the rolls of these schools was 638, viz., 480 male, and 158 female.

15. *Imports and Exports.*

The total value of the imports is—	£
In 1884 - - - -	3,083,870
As against, in 1883 - - -	2,663,022
Difference - - -	420,848

being an increase of 15·80 per cent.

	1883.	1884.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	877,916	887,011
British Colonies - - -	269,554	254,339
Foreign Countries - -	1,515,552	1,942,520

Articles on which the Duty amounted to over 1,000*l.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Bread - - - -	1,315	13	0
Butter - - - -	3,632	16	1
Corn - - - -	3,432	3	9
Flour - - - -	15,396	6	8
Gunpowder - - -	1,686	13	0
Hardware - - -	3,370	16	10
Lard - - - -	1,297	7	5
Leather manufactured - -	1,843	10	2
Malt Liquor - - -	4,386	5	3
Matches - - -	3,731	0	0
Oil meal - - - -	2,023	0	0
Opium - - - -	2,960	0	9
Oil, kerosine - - -	13,458	8	0
Oil, olive - - -	2,751	6	0
Oil, cocoanut - - -	1,427	6	0
Oil, other kinds - - -	1,422	15	0
Rice - - - -	21,163	6	10
Rum - - - -	7,325	18	6
Soap - - - -	1,724	2	9
Sugar - - -	4,331	14	8
Spirits, brandy - - -	6,860	11	3
„ gin - - -	3,405	9	9
„ other kinds - -	3,715	16	0
Timber (lumber) - - -	5,092	18	2

	£	s.	d.
Timber Shingles - - -			
„ Shooks - - -	2,491	10	8
„ Staves - - -			
„ Wood Hoops - -			
Tobacco (unmanufactured) -	19,428	13	3
„ (manufactured) - -	980	10	0
„ cigars, &c. - -	1,690	18	0
Textile manufactures - -	11,049	2	0
Wines - - - -	9,796	13	6

The total value of goods imported liable to duty was—

	£
In 1883 - - - -	1,156,259
In 1884 - - - -	1,179,743

The duty received on the above was—

	£	s.	d.
In 1883 - - - -	173,577	13	1
In 1884 - - - -	169,828	15	7

The item rum will account in great measure for the falling off of duty, the amount received in 1883 being 21,269*l.* 8*s.* as against 7,325*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, or a decrease of 13,944*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* This deficiency was however very nearly made good by the larger receipts from rum duty (excise), the collection being—

	£	s.	d.
In 1883 - - -	83,702	13	8½
In 1884 - - -	96,805	6	3
Excess in 1884 - -	13,102	12	6½

Of goods liable to duty which were warehoused for exportation only and transhipped, the total value amounted—

	£
In 1884 to - - - -	96,785
In 1883 to - - - -	82,093
Increase in entrepot trade -	14,692

The value of the free goods imported was—

	£
In 1884 - - - -	1,807,342
In 1883 - - - -	1,424,670
Increase -	382,672

In this category is placed bullion, of which the value of the gold from Venezuela is estimated at—

	£
In 1884 - - - -	1,046,020
In 1883 - - - -	709,574
	336,446

Silver (bullion) amounted to 554*l.* in 1884.

which accounts for the greater portion of the increase shown above.

The specie imports showed a falling off of 55,191*l.* the figures being—

	£
1884 - - - - -	205,393
1883 - - - - -	260,584

Deducting bullion and specie from the value of the total imports for the years 1883 and 1884, the balance will be—

	£
1884 - - - - -	1,831,903
1883 - - - - -	1,692,864

Exports.

The total exports amounted to—

	£
1884 - - - - -	2,769,727
1883 - - - - -	2,686,670
Increase - - -	83,057

The following table shows the countries to which the produce was exported, and distinguishes between goods which are the produce and manufactures of the Colony, and those which are imported :—

Countries.	Native Products, &c.	Foreign Products, &c.	Total.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	499,795	363,495	863,290
British Colonies - - -	66,490	25,305	91,795
Foreign Countries - - -	708,500	1,106,142	1,814,642
Total - - -	1,274,785	1,494,942	2,769,727

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For purposes of comparison a similar table in respect of 1883 with those of 1884, the quantities as well as the values should be taken into account.

The principle items of export (native products) were as follows:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value,	
	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.
			£	£
Asphalt epurée - Tons	4,868	6,562	9,737	13,124
„ raw - - „	34,277	33,383	34,277	33,383
Bitters - - - Galls.	32,925	32,381	32,925	32,381
Cocoanuts - - No.	8,826,500	11,276,339	35,500	42,748
Cocoa - - - Lbs.	11,649,785	12,908,770	372,629	380,878
Molasses - - Galls.	1,982,176	2,245,650	74,066	44,953
Rum - - - „	2,394	43,581	39	4,658
Sugar - - - Tons	54,495	60,961	886,172	642,255

It will be observed that the crops of 1884 exceeded those of 1883 by over 6,400 tons of sugar, 1,250,000 lbs. of cocoa and 2,440,000 cocoanuts.

The export of gold from Venezuelan mines amounted to 1,046,423*l.* of which 327,576*l.* worth was shipped to the United Kingdom and 718,847*l.* to France.

There was a falling off in the export trade with Venezuela of nearly 50,000*l.*, the value of the exports from Trinidad to the country being 305,798*l.* as against 355,121*l.* in the previous year. This is due no doubt to the operation of the differential duty imposed by the republic on goods imported from British Colonies. The local merchants complain loudly of the injustice of this impost, and Her Majesty's Government have made representations to the Venezuelan Government on the subject.

16. *Shipping.*

The following is a summary of the shipping returns of the year:—

—	Entered.	Representing a tonnage of.
Number of British sailing vessels - -	513	63,102
„ Foreign sailing vesssels - -	1,706	96,966
„ of British steamers - -	212	293,302
„ Foreign steamers - - -	101	78,400
„ of British sailing vessels cleared -	506	61,084
„ of Foreign sailing vessels cleared -	1,610	87,348
„ of British steamers - -	209	289,808
„ Foreign steamers - - -	104	78,949

17. *Grants of Land.*

The area of the Colony is estimated at 1,120,000 acres.

During 1884 438 grants were issued, representing an acreage of 6,100 acres. The total number of acres granted is 349,422.

18. *Criminal Statistics.*

The number of offences reported was 16,820. The number of persons summarily convicted was 10,192: 189 were committed for trial in the superior courts, 3,004 cases were dismissed on the merits and 5,428 discharged for want of prosecution or of evidence.

Of the summary convictions 2,578 were for offences against the Masters' and Servants' Acts, including breaches of the labour laws by indentured coolies.

In the Supreme Court, out of a total of 239 persons indicted, judgment for the Crown was given in 152 cases, for the prisoner in 59; 1 prisoner was found insane, and 27 cases were thrown out for want of prosecution.

19. *General Remarks.*

The scenes of riot and disorder which had taken place in 1881 and 1883 on the occasion of the carnival rendered imperative the taking of stringent measures for controlling the movements of the masquerades. It was deemed necessary to prohibit altogether the torch light procession known as the cannesbrulées which usually took place on the Sunday night preceding Lent, and proclamations were issued accordingly. Everything passed off quietly in Port of Spain and San Fernando and indeed throughout the Island with the exception of Princes Town. At that place there was an unfortunate conflict between the police and a large band who insisted on carrying their torches. The riot act was read, and as the people refused to disperse, the order to fire was given. The result was that two men were killed and two or three wounded.

The use of fire arms by the police had again to be resorted to later in the year to enforce the regulations for the preservation of order during the Mohurrum festival.

These regulations prohibited the entry into the towns of Port of Spain and San Fernando of Indian immigrants in procession. They, however, in defiance of the law attempted to force their way into San Fernando.

These disturbances, resulting in a rather serious loss of life among the coolies, formed the subject of investigation by General Sir H. W. Norman, K.C.B., C.I.E., Governor of Jamaica, who was specially commissioned by the Imperial Government to inquire into the matter. It is satisfactory to learn, however much the loss of life is to be deplored, that the steps taken by the Local Govern-

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ment in connexion with these disturbances meet with Sir H. Norman's approval, and that his opinion is shared by the Secretary of State. The report has been presented to Parliament, and it is perhaps unnecessary to make further mention of the lamentable occurrence here.

The health of the Island was normal. No epidemic disease prevailed.

The crops were abundant and although cocoa fetched good prices, the depression in the sugar market, which unfortunately still continues, is the occasion of the most gloomy foreboding with regard to the future of the Colony and the West India Islands generally. It is a somewhat remarkable circumstance that notwithstanding the unremunerative prices obtained for the staple commodity last year inflicted serious pecuniary loss on the owners of sugar plantations, the trade of the Colony showed a considerable increase, the value of imports not only did not diminish, but exhibited a large augmentation, and the receipts from the rum duty, which may be taken as affording a pretty accurate gauge of the spending capacity of the labouring classes, were fully maintained.

The continued depression has, however, commenced to show itself in a falling off in both these sources of revenue. The wages of the labourers have necessarily been reduced, and unless the negotiations which are now pending with the United States of America for the admission of sugar into that country on more favourable terms affords some measure of relief, or the struggle for mastery which is being carried on between the beetroot and the cane should eventuate in a victory for the latter, it is much to be feared that the crisis through which we are passing will deal a terrible blow to the present prosperity and future prospects of these islands.

(Signed) J. SCOTT BUSHE,
Colonial Secretary.

BARBADOS.

BARBADOS.

No. 6.

Governor Sir Wm. ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

MY LORD, Barbados, March 28, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to forward a report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1884, which has been prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. King-Harman.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c.

Report on Blue Book of 1884.

Finance.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The year under report began with a credit balance in the Colonial Treasury of - - -	3,450	4	4½
During the year the receipts from all sources amounted to - -	145,297	3	9
Giving a total of - -	148,747	8	1½

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The expenditure to 31st December was - - - -	143,897	5	5
Or 1,399*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* within the revenue,			
Leaving a credit balance of -	4,850	2	8½

It is most satisfactory to note that this disastrous year for the West Indies was well weathered by Barbados, and that in spite of the universal stagnation in trade and the cautious character of all mercantile operations the revenue of the Colony maintained its elasticity, and was the largest that has ever been collected, exceeding the hitherto unprecedented receipts of 1882 by 3,583*l.* 10*s.* 3½*d.*

And this has been effected without any undue pressure of taxation which remains, as regards that imposed for purposes of general revenue, very light, and no complaints are made by any class in the community. As is general throughout the West Indies, the chief revenue of Barbados is derived from customs receipts, and out of the total amount received for 1884, 89,324*l.* 1*s.* was derived from duties paid on Imports, leaving 55,973*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* received from other sources. The assets of the Colony on the 31st December 1884 were:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance in the treasury - -	4,850	2	8½
Loan - - - -	8,325	0	0
On purchase of land - -	1,193	15	0
Total - - -	14,368	17	8½

The liabilities were,—debentures issued under the authority of the Public Works Loan Act 1881, 15,700*l.*

The expenditure for the year has been kept within the revenue, and although an increase of 1,661*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* is shown as compared with the previous year yet there is no item which calls for special

comment. Towards the close of the year, when the depression in trade was more markedly felt, the expenditure showed signs of being fully as much as the revenue could support, and unless the prospects of the Colony brighten during 1885 it will be necessary to enforce considerable economy if a reasonable equilibrium is to be maintained. Although the financial position of the Colony throughout and at the close of 1884 may be considered to be sound and satisfactory, there were ominous signs of decadence during the last quarter.

Local Revenue and Expenditure.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The assessed amount of local taxation was - - - -	53,317	2	5½
And the expenditure from that source was - - - -	40,253	17	11½
Leaving a balance of -	13,063	4	6

which however may be entirely put down under the head of arrears. Besides this parochial expenditure there was a sum of 6,450*l.* granted from the general revenue for the upkeep of the roads throughout the Island.

Military Expenditure.

During the year the military expenditure, including the cost for Demerara and Trinidad, was 73,858*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, as compared with 63,431*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* in the previous year.

Public Debt.

During the year 1884 further debentures were issued under the authority of the Public Works Loan Act, 1881, and the public debt, which at the close of 1883 was 4,000*l.*, was increased to 15,700*l.*

The debentures were issued as follows:—

	£
To the Barbados Savings Bank - -	9,800
The Government of St. Lucia - - -	1,000
And to one merchant in the town - -	900

The amount raised was expended entirely in connexion with various public works.

TRADE.

Imports and Exports.

The revenue derived from import duties during 1884, showed an increase of 522*l.* over the receipts of the previous year, and trade for the first three-quarters of the year was in a satisfactory condition.

During the last quarter the depression in the sugar market was clearly shown in the diminished imports, and it is to be feared that the trade of the Colony will not soon recover its normal healthy condition. The proprietors and labourers on the sugar estates, who are the main consumers of dutiable articles, are forced to curtail their expenditure in every direction, and the merchants, seeing but little prospect of keeping up even their present business, are only importing such articles and in such quantities as may command a sale as soon as possible.

The close of 1884 was the beginning of a commercial crisis throughout the West Indies, and Barbados, having no other resources except from the sugar crop, is sharing, and must continue to share, in the general depression of trade.

The total revenue for 1884 derived from trade was:—

	£
Import duties - - - -	78,854
Tonnage - - - -	9,485
	88,339

The receipts in 1883 under the same head were:—

	£
Import duties - - - -	76,849
Tonnage - - - -	10,968
	87,817

The increase in the amount received for import duties is entirely owing to the operation of the Revenue in Aid Act, which was passed on 29th March 1884, and under the provisions of which an additional import duty of 25 per cent. was imposed on all alcoholic liquors, the excise duty on rum being also raised from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per gallon. Had it not been for the passing of this Act the receipts for 1884 would have fallen below those taken in the previous year.

The decrease in the amount paid during 1884 for tonnage is due to the operation of the Trade Act Amendment Act of 29th May 1883, whereby the dues imposed on sailing vessels were considerably reduced. On passing this Act an annual loss of 3,500*l.* under the head of tonnage was estimated.

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The direction of the trade of the Colony remains unchanged, and may be best shown by the following table of imports and exports with their respective values :—

Imports from

——	1884.	1883.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	455,592	458,946
British Colonies and Possessions -	230,425	207,912
Foreign Countries - -	470,213	488,484
Total - - - -	1,156,230	1,155,342

Exports to

——	1884.	1883.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	477,506	440,784
British Colonies and Possessions -	446,335	274,611
Foreign Countries - - -	395,038	425,738
Total - - - -	1,318,879	1,141,133
Total imports and exports -	2,475,109	2,296,475

Shipping.

The number of steam ships entered at the port was 265, representing a tonnage of 313,272 tons. The number of sailing ships engaged in trade was 1,645, representing a tonnage of 390,982 tons. Besides these there were 18 ships of war and three yachts. The total number of vessels was, therefore, 1,931, or rather over five vessels for every day in the year. Putting aside ships of war and yachts the total tonnage entered at the port was 704,254 tons.

In 1883 the tonnage of the steam ships exceeded that of the sailing ships ; in 1884, although there was an increase in the

number of steamers, the tonnage of the foreign going sailing vessels, exclusive of colonial craft, is 56,704 in excess of the steam ships. This may be accounted for by the large increase in the seeking trade, there being an unprecedented number of seekers during the latter part of the year, an indication, perhaps, that a large proportion of the seeking trade of St. Thomas is now finding its way to this port. Some of these sailing ships calling here for orders were of large size—from 700 to 1,200 tons. An impetus has been given to trade and facilities afforded to vessels by a recent Act of the Legislature, which removed the disabilities which were imposed on the traffic of the careenage. Ships of large size are now permitted to load and discharge alongside the wharves, and the additional accommodation has already been productive of the best results.

Legislation.

The session of House of Assembly, which commenced on the 24th July 1883, expired on the 23rd July 1884. From the 1st of January 1884 to the close of the session, 41 Acts were passed, the most important of which were the Elective Franchise Extension Act and the Revenue in Aid Act. Prior to the passing of the former of these two Acts the number of electors out of a population of 172,000 was only 1,600, the House of Assembly was a representative body only in name, and the return of members at annual general elections was regarded by the bulk of the people with apathy and indifference. Contests at the polls were almost unknown, the same members being elected year after year by the two or three persons in each constituency, who, in courtesy to the sheriffs and candidates, presented themselves on nomination days. This anomalous state of affairs was commented on by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies in a speech made in the House of Lords in 1876, and the attention of the Legislature of Barbados was for the first time directed to the incompatibility of the situation. In a public document unanimously adopted by the House of Assembly, and addressed to the Secretary of State, it was admitted that the time had come to review the question, and to widen the basis of the franchise. Nothing further was done, however, until the assumption of the Government by Sir William Robinson in 1880. His Excellency at one addressed himself to the task of inducing the House of Assembly to accept certain measures of parliamentary reform. At the close of 1881 the extension of the franchise was brought prominently to the front, and a carefully prepared Bill dealing with the subject was submitted by the Governor for the consideration of the House of Assembly during the session of 1882–83. After an interesting and lengthy debate, in which the details of the measure were discussed with much ability and with marked moderation of language, the Bill was passed unanimously by both Houses of the Legislature, was in due time assented to by Her Majesty, and

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became one of the most important laws of the Colony. Such is the history of a measure that has added about 4,200 persons to the electoral roll of the Island, and which, as it marks the commencement of a new political era in the Colony, is, I think, of sufficient importance to merit these somewhat lengthy remarks.

The other Act to which reference has been made was passed to provide against what at one time threatened to be a deficiency in the revenue. The operation of the Act has been successful, the object for which it was passed has been obtained, and no complaints have been made against its incidence. Under its provisions an additional duty of 25 per cent. on all alcoholic liquors, and an additional duty of 50 per cent. on rum manufactured within the Island is levied. The other Acts passed during the session under report, although generally conducive to the well-being of the Colony, call for no special comment.

Civil Establishments.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief was absent on leave for four months, June to September, inclusive, and during his absence the administration of the Government was undertaken by Major-General H. R. Browne, commanding the forces in the West Indies. In the month of June the Colonial Secretary, Mr. C. C. Knollys, was appointed to administer the Government of St. Lucia; the acting appointment of Colonial Secretary was given to Mr. C. A. King-Harman, the Auditor-General, whose duties, while filling the higher office, were performed by Mr. L. J. Patterson, Chief Clerk in the Audit Office. The Chief Justice and the Attorney-General having proceeded to England on leave of absence their duties were performed by Mr. Choppin, the Attorney-General of St. Vincent, and by Mr. H. A. Bovell, the Solicitor-General. Mr. W. H. Greaves was appointed to act as Solicitor-General.

Councils and Assemblies.

During the year 1884 the following changes took place in the different Councils.

In the Executive Council Sir John Sealy resigned his seat in May feeling himself unable to continue in the performance of public duty. Mr. C. C. Knollys, Colonial Secretary, was transferred to the administration of the Government of St. Lucia in the month of June, and in the same month, Mr. Reeves, the Attorney General, left the Colony for England on nine months leave of absence. Fresh appointments were made in the persons of Mr. C. A. King-Harman, acting Colonial Secretary and Mr. H. A. Bovell, Acting Attorney General.

In the Executive Committee vacancies occurred by the retirement of Mr. Isaac Reece and Mr. J. Thomas Jones from the House of Assembly; their places were filled by the appointment of Mr. W. H. Greaves, Member for St. John's and Acting Solicitor General, and Mr. S. J. Atwell the member for Christ Church.

In the Legislative Council, the vacancies caused by the death of Mr. Pilgrim and the resignation of Mr. Grant were filled by the appointment of Mr. John Kellman, formerly Speaker of the House of Assembly, and Mr. W. K. Chandler, Master in Chancery, and formerly member for St. Peter's Parish.

House of Assembly. By the election held in the month of September 1884 the personnel of the House was in some degree changed. Mr. C. C. Knollys, on his departure from the Colony to administer the Government of St. Lucia resigned his seat as the representative of the parish of St. George and was succeeded in the House by Mr. King-Harman returned by the suffrages of the electors of St. Peter's. In the parish of St. Michael Mr. J. T. Jones was succeeded by Dr. A. Bayne. In Christ Church and St. Philip a contest occurred, resulting in the return for the former parish of Mr. J. Hinkson in the room of Mr. Reece retired, while Mr. W. D. Spencer and Mr. H. L. King succeeded Mr. John Connell and Mr. Joseph Connell in the representation of St. Philip. Mr. G. L. Pile was returned as Mr. Knollys' successor in the seat for St. George; and Mr. M. J. Bovell having retired from the House gave place to Mr. W. W. Gowdey as member for St. Andrew. Mr. G. H. Alleyne, the member for St. James, gave way to Dr. Gaskin, and Mr. H. B. Skeete was returned for St. Lucy in the room of Mr. Phillips deceased. The Session of 1884–85 has therefore afforded opportunity to nine new members, and the infusion of so much new blood into the Assembly has roused a greater interest in the proceedings of the House than is usually felt in the country.

Prisons.

During 1884 a new departure in the prison system has been made by the introduction of separate cells at the chief male prison at Glendairy, and by the full use made of the boys' reformatory at Dodds, to which those juvenile offenders who were formerly relegated to prison are now committed. The advantage of the separate system at the male prison has already been shown by a marked decrease in the prison population, which is especially noticeable in the case of old offenders, whose constant reappearance has received a decided check since the introduction of the new system. On the other hand, the population in the female prisons where the associated system is still in vogue is gradually increasing, and the ranks of recidivists are being added to every year. The attention of the Executive is directed towards the further improvement of existing systems and the mitigation and ultimate removal of the evils of association. The reformatory where juvenile vagrants and criminals are detained has now received its full complement of boys, and the working of the institution and success of the system is being closely observed. The boys are employed in gangs under the supervision of overseers to work the estate or home farm attached to the institution, the proceeds of their labour being sold

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for the benefit of the general revenue. The system of licensing the best conducted as indoor servants or farm labourers to neighbouring proprietors, and the hiring out of gangs to perform agricultural work on adjoining properties has recently been introduced, and has so far worked extremely well. There is a school attached to the reformatory and the boys under the supervision of the chaplain receive such education as is befitting to their class and condition; and with proper training and management there is every reason to hope that the inmates of this admirable institution will develop into good citizens and a support to the country of which they appeared at one time destined to be the scourge. In considering the prison statistics of the Colony the influence of education on the masses is shown in a marked degree, and when we find that the totally uneducated criminals, *i.e.*, those who can neither read nor write, comprise 62 per cent. of the whole male prison population and 54 per cent. of the females it is evident that the ultra conservative views of those who decry the efforts of the Education Department need considerable modification. It is much to be regretted that the depressed condition of the revenue of the Colony is at present a bar to the carrying out of many much needed structural improvements in the different prisons, and to the remedying of some fully recognized evils.

Public Works.

The chief public works which have been carried out under the authority of the Loan Act and which therefore have not affected the general revenue are:— the completion of the extension of Glendairy prison, the extending the system of inland telegraphs throughout the Island, the removal of the defective clock tower, the building a hospital at the reformatory, and works in connection with a proposed new lunatic asylum. The estimated cost of these works is 17,160*l.* The general revenue bore the cost of the repairs and other incidental expenses in connection with public property throughout the Island, the amount so spent being 5,034*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*

Savings Bank.

One of the most successful and promising institutions of the Colony is the savings bank which was established under an Act of the Legislature in 1852, and which, little by little, has established itself in the confidence and affections of the labouring and industrial classes for whose benefit it was mainly instituted. Viewed at first with dislike and suspicion by a class and race naturally careless and improvident and who were ever disposed to look upon the inducements offered to them to save their earnings as some malevolent design on the part of the Government to appropriate their money, it is now a most popular institution, and the number of depositors is increasing year by year.

This is shown clearly in the following table.

	No. of depositors.	Amount deposited.
		£ s. d.
1881 - - - - -	4,036	26,865 13 7
1882 - - - - -	4,628	28,700 16 5
1883 - - - - -	5,314	37,251 4 5
1884 - - - - -	6,231	38,960 1 3

Agriculture.

The main—it may almost be said, the sole—industry of the Colony is the growth and manufacture of sugar, and with a practically unlimited supply of labour, the agricultural operations which are almost entirely confined to the preparation of the land for sugar cane are conducted with the greatest skill and with the best possible results. There is not an acre of land in the whole Island which, if it can possibly be brought into cultivation, is not carefully and unceasingly tilled, and the resources of every estate are mainly directed to the support and renewal of the fertile soil. The sugar crop of 1884 was a good one 62,183 hhds. being exported as compared with 52,896 hhds. in 1883. It is to be regretted that from causes over which the Colony has no control and which the Imperial Government are apparently powerless to prevent, the price of the staple product of the West Indies is falling below the cost of production. The small industries of pottery, petroleum and matches are too insignificant to call for any special reference in this report.

Crime.

The criminal statistics of the Colony are encouraging as showing a marked diminution of crime as compared with former years, although the record for the year is stained with two murders. The progress of education and the improvement of the prison system may be regarded as the chief causes of the amelioration.

Education.

Under the management of a Board, assisted by an inspector and a sub-inspector, the education of the Island progresses most favourably. The number of schools increases year by year, and the anxiety of the people to profit by the elementary instruction offered to them is most marked. The liberality of the Legislature in granting an annual sum of 15,000*l.* in support of all grades of education is productive of the happiest results, and in the

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successes of the labourers' children in the elementary schools, and of the sons of the middle and upper classes in the higher centres of education and subsequently at the English Universities much cause for hope and congratulation is afforded to those who have the best interests of the Colony at heart.

The ladies' college having secured the services of a new staff of head mistress and two assistants from England, is doing good work, and is recognised as a most valuable institution.

Health.

The health of the Island during 1884 compares favourably with that of past years. No epidemic of any kind appeared, and the general health of the Island has been good. There are no medical statistics, but from the quarterly reports of the parochial medical officers it appears that the severe epidemic of measles which was raging at the end of 1883 had almost completely exhausted itself, only a few sporadic cases being now heard of. Typhoid fever still prevails unduly in Bridgetown and in many of the country parishes, and this disease although not very severe in type, is responsible for the majority of the deaths which have occurred amongst the outdoor poor. The cause may be traced in the country to an insufficient supply of drinking water, especially in the dry season, and in the town to the defective system of latreenage which prevails among the poorer classes.

Information received from the Army Medical Department, shows that the health of the troops has been exceptionally good. With regard to the white troops, the hospital returns give 483 admissions, out of which 5 died, 12 were invalided, 441 returned to duty, and 25 remained, showing a decrease in the number of admissions compared with the year 1883 of 120 and a decrease in the number constantly sick of 10·92.

The health of the black troops has also been very good, and in remarking generally upon the health of the station the medical officer at the military hospital says:—

"The year under review has been a remarkably healthy one in the Island. No diseases of a zymotic character prevailed and the percentage of sick compares most favourably with previous years, and with that of many home stations, the chief admissions occurring amongst the febrile group, venereal and local injuries."

(Signed) C. A. KING-HARMAN,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Barbados, 27th March 1885.

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No. 7.

Governor SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

Barbados, May 10, 1885.

Forwarded.

The Right Hon. (Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c.

Government House, St. Vincent,
May 2, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Saint Vincent for the year 1884, and to report upon it as follows:—

Taxes, Duties, Fees.

2. The tariff of customs duties, tonnage and lighthouse dues remained at the same rates in 1884, as in the preceding year, and the dockets of fees taken by such of the public officers as are partly paid by fees, remained unaltered, whilst licences of all kinds were left at the same rates as in 1883.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue collected during the year was 34,068*l.*, the expenditure amounted to 33,389*l.*, leaving a balance of 679*l.* in favour of the revenue.

The import duties fell short of those collected in 1883 by 1,530*l.*, owing to the decreased importation of goods of all kinds, consequently there was also a falling off in the receipts from tonnage of about 150*l.*

The cause of the decrease in importations will be made abundantly clear to his Lordship from the following statistics, showing the crisis through which the Colony has been passing during the past year with regard to its staple product, Muscovado sugar.

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At the commencement of the year this class of sugar was selling in the London market at 17*s.* 3*d.* per cwt., but from the 16th January 1884, the quotations began to fall, on the 19th of March they had gone down to 15*s.* 6*d.*; on the 11th of April to 14*s.* 6*d.*, and on the 6th May to 14*s.*, about this time there was a slight recovery of about 9*d.* per cwt.

On the 18th of June, Muscovado sugar had fallen to 13*s.*, on the 2nd of July to 12*s.*, on the 20th of August to 11*s.* 3*d.*, and on the 3rd of October to 10*s.* 9*d.* After which there was a slight rally, when on the 19th November it was quoted at 11*s.*, although it fell again to 10*s.* 9*d.* on the 2nd of December, with which unprecedentedly low price the year closed. Now the circulation of money in Saint Vincent is chiefly affected by salaries and wages paid in the Colony to those employed in the manufacture of sugar and rum, which amount in good seasons to something little short of 100,000*l.* per annum, so that with the certainty of a decreased manufacture of both these staples, the importers of "dry goods" and "food stuff" usually consumed by the "people" foresaw a falling off in the demand, and therefore reduced their home and foreign orders in proportion to the probable falling off in the means of the labourers to pay for such articles.

Whilst there was this falling off in imports and receipts from tonnage, there was a considerable increase under the head of Excise; duty being paid in 1884 in excess of that paid in 1883, by no less than 1,368*l.*, but this increase was due to large removals of rum from bond towards the end of the year in anticipation of an Increased rate of duty on spirits in 1885.

The only item of expenditure which calls for any explanation is that of hospitals, which was apparently increased from 2,049*l.* in 1883 to 2,811*l.* in 1884, but this apparent excess is due to the transfer of the cost of the pauper and leper asylums from the classification "charitable allowances" to that of "hospitals."

Public Debt.

4. At the commencement of the year the debt consisted of 1,000*l.*, due on account of a loan from the savings bank, of which 500*l.* was repaid during 1884, and of 1,840*l.* raised under the Government House Loan Ordinance 1882, which liability was further reduced by the sum of 160*l.*; four debentures having been paid off under the provisions of that Ordinance.

On the 1st January 1884, the surplus of assets over liabilities was in round numbers 7,800*l.*, whilst on the 1st of January last the surplus of assets reached 9,150*l.*; in 1884 the cash balances in hand, transferred on the 1st January from the general account of 1883, amounted in the aggregate to 11,000*l.*, whilst in 1885 the cash balances transferred from the account of 1884 amounted to 13,480*l.* I therefore trust that Lord Derby will allow that the financial position of the Colony at the close of the year was, in spite of the hard times which the low price of sugar brought about, so far satisfactory.

Public Works

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5. The Kingstown jetty was rebuilt during last year at a little less than the estimated cost, 800*l.*; and a comfortable house was built as a residence for the Medical Officer of No. 3 District, at South Union, at a cost of about 600*l.*

Legislation.

6. Eleven Ordinances were passed during the year 1884.

(1.) An Ordinance to amend "the Immigration Ordinance 1880." This Ordinance was prepared under instructions from the Secretary of State, but amongst other amendments I took advantage of the occasion to prohibit the keeping of pigs underneath immigrants' houses, and to make it unlawful for indentured immigrants, free coolies or creoles to keep pigs within 50 yards in any direction of an indentured immigrant's dwelling; I am glad to say that this provision has had the desired effect, and that the coolie lines and houses are now comparatively clean and sweet.

(2.) An Ordinance for preventing delay and expense in obtaining the testimony of witnesses who are prisoners or are confined in any legalized place of confinement. This enactment was passed to enable the Governor or Chief Justice to issue warrants for the production and examination of prisoners committed to gaol, the former mode of obtaining the evidence of such witnesses being attended both by unnecessary delay and expense.

(3.) An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the process, practice, and mode of pleading in the Supreme Court of Judicature, in suits and proceedings at common law and in equity; and to make better provision for the execution of judgments and decrees and other matters. This Ordinance is an adaptation of the code of Sir Julian Pauncefote in force in the Leeward Islands.

(4.) An Ordinance to amend "The Prisons Ordinance 1878," by authorising the Governor to appoint any public hospital or any other public institution as places of confinement for prisoners in certain cases and for other purposes.

This Ordinance authorises the Governor to appoint any public hospital or any other public institution as a place of confinement for prisoners in certain cases. Whilst upon this subject I thought it desirable to introduce a clause for the punishment of persons holding communication with prisoners, as I found that the relations and friends of convicts employed outside the walls on public works were in the habit of communicating with such prisoners by means of signs, &c.

(5.) An Ordinance to provide for the relief of seamen of this Colony found in distress abroad and also to provide for their return to this Colony. This Ordinance repeals that of 1882 on the same subject, it defines more precisely the meaning of the terms "colonial ship," and "colonial seamen" found in distress abroad.

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(6.) An Ordinance to repeal "The Wrecks Inquiry Ordinance, 1880," and to make other provisions in lieu thereof. After two years' trial it was found necessary to amend the Ordinance of 1880, on the same subject, and to explain more fully the cases in which inquiries should be held by police magistrates, and to define the power of their courts; the remuneration of assessors is also provided for, and power is given to the court to suspend and cancel the certificates of masters, mates, or engineers.

(7.) An Ordinance to provide for the compensation of the families of persons killed by accidents and to extend and regulate the liability of employers to make compensation for personal injuries suffered by workmen in their service.

This Ordinance had its origin in the death of an East Indian immigrant, owing to a boiler explosion on one of the estates of this Colony, and to the fact that at the inquest which was held on the deceased immigrant's body, it came out that his employers were in no way bound by law to make compensation to the family of the deceased indentured immigrant.

This enactment also regulates the liability of employers to make compensation for personal injuries received by workmen employed in their service.

(8.) An Ordinance to legalize the expenditure of certain sums of money paid from the General Revenue for the year 1883. This Ordinance was passed to legalize the expenditure of certain sums of money paid from the General Revenue for the service of the year 1883, the estimates for which year not having been sanctioned by the Secretary of State until attention was called to the omission.

(9.) An Ordinance to provide for the payment of certain sums of money for the public service of the year 1885.

(10.) An Ordinance to suspend the levying of export duties during the year 1885 and to impose in lieu thereof additional duties upon certain spirits manufactured in and imported into this Colony. This Ordinance was passed to give relief during 1885 to the proprietors and planters of the Colony by the suspension of the export duties on sugar, arrowroot, &c.; the operation of this Ordinance is limited to one year, in the hope that the present unprecedentedly low prices of sugar, &c., which have brought the planting interest to the verge of ruin, will have recovered before the end of this year.

(11.) An Ordinance to reduce the cost of still licences during the year 1885.

This Ordinance reduces the cost of still licences to a registration fee of 1*l.*, and as in the case of the preceding Ordinance was passed to give relief to proprietors, planters, and manufacturers of rum, within this Colony. Its operation is also limited to the year 1885.

Councils.

7. No changes took place in either the Executive or Legislative Councils during 1884.

Education.

8. From the following comparative tables it will be seen that there is a general improvement in the educational system of this Colony; a good many inefficient teachers have been weeded out, and I have little doubt that in 1885 the system of pupil teachers will be inaugurated :—

	1883.		1884.	
	Presented.	Passed.	Presented.	Passed.
Standard I. - -	1,171	868	1,332	972
Standard II. - -	467	343	548	412
Standard III. - -	198	118	174	119
Total -	1,836	1,329	2,054	1,501

Present at Examination -	3,567	3,899
On Register - -	4,679	5,290
Average attendance -	3,608	3,739
Number of Schools -	60	48

Gaols and Prisoners.

9. The prison statistics for 1884 afford very little room for comment as compared with the preceding year. Two prisoners escaped from gangs working on the roads, under the Colonial Engineer, but in both instances the convicts were recaptured and were sentenced by the Chief Justice to three months' additional imprisonment with hard labour for running away. I am sorry to say that my attempt to substitute imprisonment for flogging does not appear to be successful, and that the gaol authorities recommend a return to the old practice of flogging in every case of escape.

Criminal Statistics.

10. The returns of prædial larcenies are unfortunately again increasing, looking to the returns for 1883. The cases dismissed for want of prosecutions having increased from 33 to 71; those dismissed on the merits from 10 to 14; whilst the convictions under this heading have increased from 31 to 54. I attribute this increase to the low price of Muscovado sugar at home, which commenced to affect the labour market here about March 1884, and has I am sorry to say continued seriously to do so ever since, cultivation has therefore been much restricted and hundreds of acres of the least productive land have been abandoned altogether,

ST. VINCENT.

hence great numbers of labourers have been thrown out of employment, and have been unable to obtain the usual wages upon which they and their families depend for maintenance.

Hospitals.

11. On the 31st of December 1884 the new colonial hospital in Kingstown was opened for the reception of general patients, those from the Edinburgh temporary hospital having been transferred to it, during the preceding three or four days. It is a very commodious building, built upon the site of the old Kingstown hospital, and has accommodation under separate roofs for about 40 female and 80 male patients; at present the Edinburgh hospital is unoccupied, and I have again urged the expediency of transferring the paupers to this building, as they still complain bitterly of the cold at Fort Charlotte, from the effects of which, as I have on many previous occasions reported, large numbers of the aged and more infirm patients have died off.

Immigration.

12. Since the unprecedentedly low price of sugar during 1884, the position of the East Indian immigrants has materially altered for the worse. Of course on estates on which there are indentured coolies, the proprietors are compelled to find them work, but there is a very large number of so-called free coolies, *i.e.* those immigrants who have taken 10*l.* bounty to remain in the Colony, who are thrown out of work. The number of indentured coolies is about 700, whilst the number of free coolies is about 1,400, legally these latter immigrants have no claim upon this Government, but there can be no doubt that when they took the 10*l.* bounty to forego their rights to back passages to India it was under the belief that they would have no difficulty in obtaining regular employment on the sugar estates in St. Vincent. In July last, notice was generally given by managers to these unindentured coolies that their services would not be wanted regularly in 1884, which resulted in very numerous complaints to me from these people with regard to their non-employment. The argument they used was generally that as the Government had brought them here from India, the Governor was bound to find them in work, or else as they put it "no so must give all we something to eat;" a circular was accordingly addressed to the proprietors and attornies of estates in the Colony, suggesting if possible the expediency of employing these free coolies, who would otherwise in all probability emigrate to Grenada, Trinidad or British Guiana.

This circular was so far attended with success that assurances came in to the effect that East Indian immigrants would be employed in preference to creole labourers on most estates, and so far the difficulty has been tided over in 1884; but I am sorry to say that during my inspections of estates at the latter end of 1884, and in January 1885, I found that it was the almost unanimous intention of proprietors, attornies, and managers not

to reindenture any of the "Lightning" coolies who came here in 1880, and whose first terms of service will expire in the course of this month. There are about 240 of these people, and unless they can obtain employment, I fear that this Government will have to send them back to India along with about 260 coolies who came here in the "Lincelles" 10 years ago, and who in view of the difficulty of obtaining regular employment on sugar estates have registered themselves for back passages to India.

Grants of Land.

13. No grants of land were made during 1884, nor were any Crown lands sold.

In my report on the Blue Book of Saint Vincent for 1881, I called attention to the necessity of having the Crown lands of this Colony sold, their boundaries ascertained, and of the appointment of rangers to keep those boundaries open, and again in my Despatch forwarding the Blue Book for 1883, I reported that the Executive Council had unanimously resolved to apply for leave to spend 2,000*l.* on a general survey, showing the boundaries of the Crown lands.

There are very numerous applications registered in the Colonial Engineer's office for the purchase of Crown lands; and I therefore venture to suggest that 2,000*l.* could not be better spent than in enabling the Government to establish a certain number of coloured and black proprietors, as a nucleus upon which to form peasant proprietary bodies in the interior of this Island.

General.

14. Although the unprecedentedly low prices of sugar during the last three quarters of 1884, have materially affected the prosperity of the planter and the revenue of the Colony, I am not without hopes that these low prices will ultimately conduce to the permanent prosperity of the Island, as proprietors will be forced to turn their attention to the cultivation of cocoa, coffee, and spices, which have hitherto been altogether neglected for that of the sugar cane.

It is true that the manufacture of arrowroot has always to some extent been carried on; but it will now, no doubt be considerably increased as the plant grows readily on abandoned cane lands, and as its preparation for the home market requires but little capital.

I am &c.,

(Signed) AUGUSTUS FRED. GORE,

Lieutenant Governor.

His Excellency
Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

No. 8.

Governor SIR WM. ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

Barbados, March 10, 1885.

I HAVE much pleasure in calling special attention to this very satisfactory report for the year 1884.

The Right Hon. (Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Government House, Grenada,
February 26, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Colony for 1884, in duplicate, with the following report thereon:—

Taxes, Duties, Fees, &c.

2. The taxes which had been levied during many years past upon persons resident in Carriacou, towards the maintenance in that island of a medical practitioner, were abolished, and the salary of the Medical Officer was made a charge on the general revenues of the Colony, as in the case of the Medical Officers in Grenada.

3. By an Order in Council of 15th of March the duties payable under the Stamp Ordinance on licences (save for marriages) were abolished, and the duties on appointments to public offices were varied, and considerably reduced.

4. For the purpose of providing sufficient ponds and wells for keeping them in order and maintaining a proper supply of water in Carriacou, an annual rate was imposed on all householders in that Island, under an Ordinance entitled "The Carriacou Water-"Rate Ordinance 1884," which came into force in July.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. The revenue of 1884 was 51,488*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, irrespective of the revenues for special and local services. It will be seen by the comparative statement that the revenue in 1884 was in excess of that of 1883 by 7,605*l.*; the duties on imported goods without any increase in the rates, having contributed 3,477*l.*, and on Excise 1,855*l.* to this large excess. I should here remark that in the 51,488*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* shown as the year's revenue there is a sum of

517*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* which is not revenue of the year, but the balance brought forward that was in the Crown Agent's hands at the end of the previous year; and there is also a sum of 754*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* the balances of certain special accounts which were closed in December 1883, which though coming to the general account as revenue was not raised in the year 1884. The expenditure in 1884 was 45,260*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* irrespective of that for special and local services; this was less by 1,716*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* than the expenditure in 1883, which was 46,976*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

6. The financial position of the Colony at the 1st of January 1884 is shown in the following statement, which exhibits surplus assets to the amount of 7,170*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*

ASSETS.	£	*s.*	*d.*	LIABILITIES.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cash balance in the Treasurer's hands	16,922	12	11	Due to Immigration Fund	10,044	13	8
Cash and Bills in hands of Crown Agents	3,437	5	3	„ Harbour Fund	84	11	0
Due from Grenville Harbour Fund	100	0	0	„ Water Fund	184	18	0
Due from Water Fund	350	0	0	„ Grenville Harbour Fund	234	11	1
Interest due on ditto	21	0	0	„ Police Reward Fund	60	2	2
				„ Streets Fund	134	10	4
				„ Saving's Bank	2,179	8	9
				„ Orders on Crown Agents unexecuted, say	658	0	11
				„ Unpaid accounts for service of 1884, say	80	0	0
				Surplus Assets	7,170	2	3
Total	20,830	18	2	Total	20,830	18	2

Public Debt.

7. The debt of the Colony was reduced in the year by the repayment of 1,000*l.* and interest to Mr. Marrast on the loan of 10,000*l.* which was obtained from him in 1878 for immigration purposes. The balance remaining due on this loan at the close of the year was 4,000*l.*

8. The loan from Mr. McPhail of 1,000*l.* remained unreduced, the interest only being paid. This loan is repayable in instalments extending over 20 years from its being taken up. An instalment will become payable in this year.

The Grenville Harbour fund repaid 200*l.* of the loan which had been made to it from general revenue in 1880, and at the 31st December last a balance of 100*l.* only remained due by it.

10. The St. George's Water Fund repaid to the Immigration Fund an instalment of 240*l.* of the loan to it, leaving a balance due of 1,440*l.*

Public Works.

11. In 1884 the large sum of 12,347*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* was spent to great advantage on buildings, roads, and bridges.

12. The traction engine and stone crusher were again put to work after having been lying idle for two or three years, and good

results were obtained from them. In the use of these machines and in the construction of roads in different parts of the Island 1,372*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* was expended. In the general repairs of the roads, including the roads in Carriacou, the sum of 5,714*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* was spent. The blasting of the rock for the purpose of remaking the highway at Richmond Hill, about 1¼ miles from St. George's, which had been carried away by heavy floods in November 1882, was brought to completion at a total cost of 1,095*l.* 18*s.* of which 816*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* was spent in the year under report. This work has been executed in a very creditable manner, and a firm and good road has been cut out of the rock. The bridge over the St. John's river which was commenced in 1883 was completed and was opened to the public in the month of March. It is substantially built of green heart timber from British Guiana, and it cost 483*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, of which 233*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* fell on the expenditure of 1884.

13. In the general repairs of the public buildings 1,594*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* was spent. The buildings to which considerable repairs were effected were the Lunatic Asylum, and the quarters of the Medical Officer of the institution, also the Court House at St. David's, which was put in good order, improved, refitted, and properly drained.

A warehouse was erected at a cost of 130*l.* in a convenient spot, apart from the houses in the town of St. George, for the exclusive storage of petroleum and similar inflammable substances, and the sum of 184*l.* 11*s.* was expended in raising the outer walls of the prison at Richmond Hill, so as to give greater security against the escape of prisoners.

14. Bricks, cement, ironwork, and other material were imported from England, and roofing tiles and lumber were purchased in the Colony for the new Court House in Grenville. The foundations of the building were laid, and the walls were commenced before the close of the year. The expenditure on this work was 1,701*l.* 6*s.*

15. In sinking wells in the island of Carriacou, and in the purchase of land and rights for this purpose, the sum of 251*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* was expended.

Legislation.

16. Fifteen Ordinances were brought into force during the year 1884. The first of these repealed an Act of 1873, which levied rates on the inhabitants of Carriacou for the purpose of providing for a health officer for that island and for a public dispensary, and enacts that Carriacou shall be a medical district of the Colony, and be provided with a medical officer under "The Medical Ordinance, 1880," charged upon the medical establishment of the Colony. "The Whipping of Prisoners Ordinance, 1884" declares that whenever any Court or magistrate orders a person over 14 years of age to be flogged, such punishment shall be inflicted in prison, and no one who is not officially connected

with the prison shall be present, and that any whipping ordered for a person under 14 years of age shall be inflicted privately.

17. An Ordinance entitled "The Storage of Inflammable Articles Ordinance" enacts that all petroleum, kerosine, and other such articles as may be declared by the Governor in Council to be of an inflammable nature, shall be stored in warehouses to be provided in the vicinity of the towns, and that such articles shall only be kept in stores or private houses in the towns in such small quantities as may be allowed under rules to be made by the Governor in Council. An Ordinance shortly entitled "The Fines "and Recoveries Substitution Ordinance" consolidates and amends the law regulating the execution of deeds by married women and deeds to operate as fines and recoveries.

18. By an Ordinance shortly entitled "The Colony Hospital Lands Sale Ordinance" power is given to the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council to sell any part of the lands known as the hospital lands, and which were formerly vested in the Colony Hospital Corporation, and to execute valid conveyances of the same.

19. "The Carriacou Water Rate Ordinance" authorises the Governor in Executive Council to fix, in each year, a rate to be paid by all owners on the assessed value of their buildings in Carriacou for the purpose of improving and maintaining a water supply in that island, such rate not to exceed six per cent. in any year. "The Coroners' Ordinance" repeals all former laws on the subject of coroners and their duties, and provides anew respecting their jurisdiction, powers, and responsibilities, and for the process and proceedings in their Courts.

20. "The Medical Registration Ordinance" directs the Governor to constitute a Medical Board of three qualified medical practitioners, of whom the Colonial Surgeon shall be one, and it vests in such board the power to examine into the qualification of every person desiring to practice physic or surgery in the Colony, and to grant a certificate of his being qualified so to do and to be entitled to register himself under the Ordinance. It further declares that no person shall practice physic or surgery unless he be duly registered in the Medical Register established under the Ordinance for the registration of all duly qualified medical men.

21. "The Licences Ordinance" consolidates and amends the laws relating to the granting of licences for keeping of carriages, carts, animals, and boats, of licences for boatmen and porters, for auctioneers, chemists and druggists, and for midwives. "The Repeal of Import Duties Ordinance" removed the imposition, from the 1st January in this year, of the extra five per cent. which had been placed in 1882 on the importation of all goods not specifically enumerated in the import tariff; and "The Export Duties Suspending Ordinance" suspends the levying of all duties on produce exported from the Colony during the year 1885.

22. The other Ordinances were for correcting a technical error in "The Code of Civil Procedure Ordinance 1882," and for legalizing the expenditure of the Colony.

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Councils.

23. Mr. Chadwick, the Colonial Treasurer, obtained six months leave of absence from April to October, and Mr. Low, acting as Treasurer, was a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils during those months. Mr. C. Macaulay Browne, and Mr. Frederick Harford, unofficial members of the Legislative Council, were also on leave of absence for some months, but resumed their duties before the close of the year. Mr. W. S. Commisiong and Mr. Francis Gurney were appointed to fill their places during their absence.

Civil Establishment.

24. Mr. Sharpe, the Provost Marshal, died in August. Mr. C. H. Collymore, the Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's department. was appointed Acting Provost Marshal, and Mr. B. J. G. Munro, from the Revenue department, was appointed Acting Chief Clerk. Mr. William Low, the Acting Magistrate of the Southern district, was placed in charge of the Treasury department during the Treasurer's absence on leave for six months, and Mr. C. J. Laurance, from Barbados, acted as magistrate in Mr. Low's place. Mr. J. P. G. Munro, the Magistrate of the eastern district, was on leave from June to November, during which time Mr. W. Evan Haynes, the Revenue officer at Grenville acted as magistrate, and Mr. Alfred Webster, from St. Patrick's parish, was placed in charge of the Revenue Office at Grenville. Mr. J. J. St. Bernard, the Revenue officer at Carriacou, resigned his office, and Mr. H. B. Isaacs, from the Revenue department in Tobago, was promoted to Carriacou. Mr. Roche, the Police Magistrate of the western district, obtained a short leave of absence, during which Mr. Otway, the Magistrate of Carriacow, was transferred to the western district, and Mr. Blair, a Justice of the Peace in Carriacou, was appointed to act for Mr. Otway. Dr. Archer was appointed Medical Officer of Carriacou in August, when Dr. Hatton, who had been temporarily acting in that office, returned to his own office of House Surgeon to the Colonial hospital. Mr. Cork, the Protector of Immigrants and Acting Inspector of Police, was promoted to Jamaica, and Mr. R. T. Wright, from the Police department in British Guiana, was appointed to act in both offices. Mr. Risk, the Colonial Surveyor, was suspended from his office in December; and Mr. H. J. Patterson, a revenue officer, was dismissed the service. The Rev. Canon Anton, who had been for over 30 years the Rector of St. George, retired on a pension.

Pensions, Gratuities, &c.

25. The Pension list was increased by 288*l.* 12*s.*, by the retirement of the Rev. Canon Anton, and decreased by 4*l.* by the death of Mary Allan, a manumitted slave.

Population.

26. The population of the Colony at the close of 1883 was placed by the Registrar General from the statistics of his department at 44,729, composed of 21,219 males and 23,510 females. The births in 1884 were 1,869, and the deaths 1,103, adding 766 to the population and bringing it up to 45,495, of whom 21,628 were males and 23,867 were females.

27. The birth-rate in 1884 was 4·17, and the death-rate 2·44 per cent. In the previous year the birth rate was 4·37, and the death-rate 2·15 per cent., the illegitimate births were 51·73 per cent. against 52·43 in the previous year.

28. The infant mortality, though greater than in 1883, still remained lower than in many of the other West Indian Colonies. The percentage of deaths of infants under one year was 17·97, and of those under 15 years of age 34·99, the percentages in the previous year having been 15·47 and 29·57.

29. There were 321 marriages celebrated in the year, while in 1883 there were only 224. This may be taken as an indication that the people were in thriving circumstances and able to add to their domestic comforts.

Savings Bank.

30. This institution continues to be more valued and made use of by the people. At the end of 1883 there were 115 depositors, and the amount on deposit was 1,589*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*; at the close of 1884 there were 141 depositors and 2,179*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* on deposit. Of these deposits 1,300*l.* were in the Colonial Bank at 3 per cent. interest; and in this year a further sum of 700*l.* was lodged at interest in the same bank.

Education.

31. The returns to the 31st December 1884 show the number of scholars in attendance during the year to have been 4,224; the number in the previous 12 months to 31st March 1384 was 3,577, thus showing an increase in the attendance in the latter year of 647 children. It is not, however, quite correct to compare these figures, as the periods embraced do not correspond. The schools are examined between January and March, and the results cannot be known till some time after the latter month.

32. The number of denominational schools receiving aid were the same in the last two years, namely, 24; ten of these were in connexion with the Anglican Church, nine with the Roman Catholic, and five with the Wesleyan Methodists. There were in the last year 1,367 children in the Anglican schools, 1,730 in Roman Catholic schools, and 944 in the Wesleyan schools.

33. A Government school was opened in September at Birch Grove in St. Andrew's parish, a populous place distant some miles from any school. The attendance is exceedingly good, the return showing the large number of 183. The school house is erected

on land given for the purpose by Mr. Bertrand, a merchant of Grenville. The Board of Education is about to erect two other buildings for Government schools, one in St. Patrick's parish on ground given for the purpose by Mr. Sargent, of Mount Rose estate, the other on leased land in St. John's parish.

Imports and Exports.

34. The value of the imports was 153,421*l.*; in 1883 the value of these was 135,265*l.*, showing a gain in value in 1884 of 18,000*l.* The value of the exports was 213,118*l.* against 193,524*l.* in 1883. The figures hereunder show the values of the imports and exports, and the direction of trade in the past year.

Countries.	1882.		1883.		1884.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	79,424	163,791	69,391	155,737	73,844	194,952
British Colonies - - -	37,276	17,134	48,427	11,836	55,112	8,089
United States of America -	17,516	—	14,980	1,612	22,937	813
France - - - -	—	—	—	19,437	7	5,384
Other foreign countries - -	2,159	3,296	2,467	4,902	1,521	3,880
Total - - -	136,375	184,221	135,265	193,524	153,421	213,118

35. The products of the colony in the last and previous two years are stated below. Coffee can scarcely be looked upon as an article of export. The rum crops of 1882 and 1883 were kept on hand and formed a large portion of the export of1884, hence, the apparently large production in 1884, and the small figures of this article in the previous years.

Articles.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Cocoa - - Cwts.	43,976	46,357	55,241
Coffee - - Lbs.	1,904	224	224
Cotton - - Cwts.	3,036	2,595	3,286
Cotton seed - „	4,524	4,108	4,559
Spices - - Lbs.	77,896	107,184	86,240
Rum - - Galls.	1,270	8,530	31,621
Sugar - - Cwts.	29,504	36,995	36,790

Shipping.

36. Three hundred and seventy sailing vessels and 86 steamers entered the ports of the Colony in the past year, representing 141,748 tons, with crews numbering 4,424. The vessels that

cleared were 375 sailing and 67 steam, having a total tonnage of 116,760 tons and 3,905 men. In the previous year 409 sailing and 74 steam vessels entered, their total tonnage being 134,055, with 4,258 men; and 49 steam and 410 sailing vessels cleared, their total tonnage being 98,285 with 3,454 men.

37. The total tonnage of British vessels which entered was 138,209 tons, and the total of British vessels cleared was 113,801 tons. In 1883 the tonnage of British vessels entered was 130,898, and of British vessels cleared 96,094.

Prisons.

38. There were 190 prisoners, 144 males and 46 females, committed to prison in 1884; 110 males and 44 females were committed in 1883; thus in the past year there was an increase in the commitments of 34 males and two females.

39. One hundred and three males and 39 females were committed for penal imprisonment, and 41 males and seven females for safe custody for trial and otherwise. In 1883 the commitments for penal imprisonment were 69 males and 37 females.

40. Of the commitments for penal imprisonment two were for terms of five years or more, 11 for one and less than five years, 33 for more than three months and less than a year, and 96 for three months or less; the corresponding figures in the previous year were 1, 12, 3, and 90.

41. The daily average in the male prison was 35·90, and in the female prison 8·43. There was one death in the male prison from pneumonia. Another male prisoner was removed to the Colony hospital, and died there from dropsy brought on by liver complaint. Inquests were held in both cases and the causes of death, as above-mentioned, were found by the jurors.

42. The prevailing diseases were measles, bronchial catarrh, diarrhœa, and dysentery. The surgeon of the prison for males reports that "during the year no disease worthy of note occurred " in the prison until the month of November, when 11 cases of " measles came under treatment, (a disease that was epidemic in " the Colony at the time). Diarrhœa and dysentery were more " prevalent among the prisoners this year than last, which I " attributed to atmospherical changes and not to any local cause, " as the sanitary condition of the prison throughout the year " was all that could be desired." The sanitary condition of the female prison was satisfactory.

Criminal Statistics.

43. The returns under this head show 1,708 cases before the courts as against 1760 in 1883, 2,068 in 1882, and 2,712 in 1881. These figures point to a steady diminution in crime, which may, I think, be reasonably attributed to the annually increasing prosperity among the labouring class.

GRENADA.

44. In the magistrates' courts 255 convictions were for offences against the person, being 17 more than in 1883, but 100 less than in 1881. There were only 18 convictions for prædial larceny against 29 in 1883 and 60 in 1881. For offences against property other than prædial larceny there were 110 convictions, while in 1883, 1882, and 1881 the convictions for these offences were 132, 160, and 222. Convictions for other offences numbered 458, more by 102 than in 1883, but less than in 1882 and 1881.

45. The cases in the Superior Court were 40 in number; in 12 of these judgments were given for the prisoners, and 6 cases fell through for want of prosecution. There were 22 convictions. In 1883 there were only 14 convictions, but in 1882 and 1881 the convictions numbered 34 and 25.

Hospitals.

46. The admissions into the Colony Hospital were 311, that is 223 males and 88 females, and 24 males and 12 females were in the institution at the commencement of the year, making the total number under treatment in the year 347. The daily average in the hospital was 45.

47. There were 24 deaths, 17 males and 7 females; giving a death-rate on the number treated of 6·91 per cent. and 53·33 per cent. on the bed rate. In 1883 and 1882 these rates were respectively 4·34 and 8·37, and 48·48 and 68.

48 The patients who were discharged cured numbered 220, and those relieved 62. There were 27 males and 14 females remaining in the hospital at the close of 1884.

49. The Yaws Hospital had 39 patients in it at the beginning of 1884, namely, 25 males and 14 females, and 132 males and 68 females were admitted during the year. The daily average was 72. One hundred and ninety-seven patients were discharged cured, and one died.

50. The St. Andrew's Hospital had 44 patients under treatment in the year, 34 males and 10 females. The daily average was 8. There was one death. This hospital was closed in August for general repairs, painting, &c., and it was not reopened in the year.

51. The St. John's Hospital had 70 patients in it under treatment in the year, the daily average being 8·3. There was one death.

Lunatic Asylum.

52. Nineteen patients, 7 males and 12 females were admitted to the asylum in the last year, and 34 males and 39 females remained in from the year before. The daily average number was 79. Sixteen were discharged cured, and nine died. Six deaths were from dysenteric diarrhœa, one from epilepsy, one from pneumonia, and one from phthisis. With respect to the deaths from dysenteric

diarrhœa the medical officer says, "about the end of October a "form of dysenteric diarrhœa of an acute nature appeared among "the inmates (a disease prevalent in the district at the time) and "spread so rapidly that fear was entertained many more deaths "would have resulted. No local cause for such an outbreak "could be discovered, drainage perfect, water supply free from "any contamination, and no overcrowding of dormitories."

General Remarks.

53. I may conclude this report by saying that the year 1884 was a favourable one for the cocoa planters, but was rather too dry for the sugar estates. Fortunately, however, Grenada is not dependant on sugar, the cultivation of which has been decreasing for many years past, and which will soon cease to be grown as an article of export unless some great change may take place and cause its price to rise in the markets abroad. The health of the island was fairly good; though, owing to the excessive dryness of the weather, there was a good deal of sickness from diarrhœa and dysentery in the latter months of the year. Measles, too, ran through the island, causing some deaths, and so spreading among children that schools which usually had 150 to 180 children in them were for some time reduced to an attendance of only 25 or 30.

54. Grenada has very great resources and must rapidly rise in importance. Her harbour is convenient and safe, and with comparatively small outlay may be made to accommodate many large vessels at one time, and several alongside a quay discharging their cargoes simultaneously. Now that she is free of debt, and a prosperous future seems before her, there is no reason why loans should not be taken up to improve the harbour, to give good water supplies to her growing towns of Grenville and Gouyane, and to construct good roads for her internal traffic. These are great wants, and claim immediate attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD LABORDE.

His Excellency
Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Tobago.

TOBAGO.

No. 9.

Governor Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K.G.

Barbados, 24th April 1885.

Forwarded.

The Right Hon. (Signed) William Robinson.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c.

Government Office, Tobago,
23rd March 1885.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith in MS. the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1884, and to make the following report thereon:—

Taxes, Duties, Fees, &c.

2. No change in the fiscal system of the Colony was effected by legislation during the year, but under the powers conferred by the Lands Valuation Ordinance, 1881, the Governor-in-Council, in consideration of the distressed circumstances of the taxpayers, reduced the rate payable on lands and houses above the annual value of 2*l.* 10*s.* from 15 per cent. to 10 per cent. of their value, and from 4*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* for those below that value. The result of this reduction was that, notwithstanding the prevailing poverty, the tax was on the whole much more cheerfully and generally paid than has been the case in recent years.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. From the operation of causes which will be explained towards the close of this report, the finances of the Colony were in an exceedingly depressed condition during the year under review.

4. The revenue was 11,370*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, as against an estimated total of 15,295*l.*, while the expenditure amounted to 13,481*l.* 18*s.* as compared with a proposed expenditure of 15,128*l.* 4*s.* The receipts thus fell short of the estimate by 3,924*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, and the expenses were less than the sum estimated as required for the service of the year by 1,646*l.* 6*s.*; while the actual expenditure of the year was in excess of its revenue by 2,111*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*

5. The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during the last five years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1880 - - - -	14,003 2 2½	11,769 11 6½
1881 - - - -	16,830 8 2	14,483 10 3
1882 - - - -	13,661 7 11	12,610 1 10
1883 - - - -	14,175 9 11	14,223 9 8
1884 - - - -	11,370 11 8	13,481 18 0

6. As compared with the revenue of 1883 that of the past year showed a decrease of no less a sum than 2,804*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, and represented indeed a smaller amount than had been received in any of the last ten years. This deficiency was apparent under nearly every one of the heads of revenue, but it was principally made up of the following items:—

	£ s. d.
Import duties, a decrease of - -	945 6 9
Excise duty on rum - - -	540 11 10½
House and land tax - -	849 10 0

7. There was on the other hand an insignificant increase of receipts under a few heads as compared with 1883, amounting altogether to 130*l.* 14*s.* 0½*d.*

8. In the following table are shown the receipts under the principal heads of revenue in 1884, and the four immediately preceding it:—

Heads.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - -	7,056 2 5½	9,374 7 10½	6,544 0 5½	6,531 2 7	5,516 8 10½
Excise - -	1,741 9 0½	1,777 2 9	1,891 13 7	2,003 9 1½	1,405 19 0
Licenses - -	1,580 11 3	1,561 11 8	1,474 17 6	1,432 18 0	1,275 7 10
Taxes - - -	2,769 7 3	2,954 14 3	2,680 2 4	2,770 3 7	2,096 9 7
Postage - - -	—	238 1 3½	196 18 7	215 5 11	203 7 4
Miscellaneous - -	855 12 2½	924 10 4	873 15 5½	1,222 10 8½	872 19 0½
Total - -	14,003 2 2½	16,830 8 2	13,661 7 11	14,175 9 11	11,370 11 8

9. The expenditure of the past year was less than that of the one preceding it by 741*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* The only items of it which call for special mention are:—

	£ s. d.
1. Cost of the purchase and erection of the public weighing machine -	120 18 6
2. Proportionate share of the expenses of the Royal Commission of 1883	140 13 11
3. Cost of 120 copies of the Royal Commissioner's Report furnished to the Colony - - -	41 1 9

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10. The subjoined table indicates the distribution of expenditure under its main heads for the five years ending with 1884 :—

Head.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil Departments -	2,305 16 3½	2,475 18 1	2,325 13 7	2,559 11 8	2,537 19 1
Judicial - -	1,958 17 10	1,837 4 4	1,570 1 4	1,851 3 3	1,650 10 6
Medical - - -	471 13 4	519 13 0	624 7 1	1,092 10 0	1,083 11 0
Ecclesiastical - -	1,060 0 0	1,060 0 0	971 13 4	1,060 0 0	1,060 0 0
Education - -	550 0 0	580 18 2	546 6 10	600 0 0	770 0 0
Police - - -	1,485 19 11	1,522 15 9	1,459 2 7	1,680 7 3	1,714 11 0
Prison - - -	634 8 6	600 9 8	616 6 2	645 18 9	625 9 1
Hospital and Asylum -	797 3 3	807 17 7	1,048 13 10½	1,230 16 3	1,046 12 6
Postal - - -	183 13 4½	186 8 8	89 15 7	201 3 3	210 9 1
Works and buildings -	584 3 6	385 14 9	723 0 2½	679 17 2	301 16 1
Roads and bridges -	803 9 6	1,042 14 0	1,181 13 2½	1,215 8 11	1,037 19 8
Miscellaneous - -	739 6 0½	1,167 5 1	1,453 8 0½	1,406 13 2	1,443 0 0
Special charges -	195 0 0	2,296 11 2	—	—	—
Total - -	11,769 11 6½	14,483 10 3	12,610 1 10	14,223 9 8	13,481 18 0

11. The following table sufficiently indicates the embarrassed financial condition of the Colony at the close of the year :—

Statement of the financial position of the Colony on first January 1885 :—

ASSETS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cash balance on 31st December 1884 -		256 0 4
Crown Agents.		
Bill of Exchange maturing in their hands on 31st December 1884 -	50 17 6	
*Bill of Exchange by Messrs. J. McCall & Co. on Messrs. Gillespie & Co. dishonoured and in the hands of the Crown Agents for collection -	266 4 8	
Interest and charges on same -	5 16 5	
		272 1 1
Balance, being indebtedness of the Colony on 1st January 1885 - -		1,002 8 11
		1,581 6 11

LIABILITIES.	£ s. d.
Due for salaries of establishments for December 1884 - - -	552 16 1
Due for services, exclusive of establishments -	718 18 3
Due on warrants drawn but not paid - -	115 3 4
Crown Agents.	
Amount overpaid by them as per their account at 31st December 1884 -	194 10 5
	1,581 8 1

* This bill was paid on 1st January 1885.

Local Revenues.

12. No local or municipal revenues of any kind are raised in the Colony.

Public Debt.

13. There has been no debt since the year 1881.

Military Expenditure.

14. It is only necessary to remark under this heading that the mother country incurred no expenditure for military purposes on account of the Colony during the year, and that the drills of the Scarborough Volunteer Rifle Corps were, from want of uniform and other causes, in abeyance during the latter part of the year.

Public Works.

15. The expenditure for public works was of an insignificant amount, and the only item of it which requires special mention is the sum of 120*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, which, on the occurrence on the spot of a favourable opportunity, and in accordance with the wishes of the planting and mercantile interests, was expended in the purchase and erection of an excellent public weighing machine. The machine has been erected in the revenue yard near the wharf in Scarborough, and regulations containing a tariff of moderate fees has been recently passed by the Governor-in-Council prescribing the mode and time of its use by the public.

Legislation.

16. During the year, thirteen Ordinances were considered by the Legislative Council and passed into law. Of these measures the more important were the undermentioned:—

No. 1. An Ordinance to authorize the conditional discharge of prisoners under licenses.

(The Convicts License Ordinance, 1884.)

By this Ordinance the former laws relating to the release of convicts on ticket-of-leave are repealed, and fresh provisions on the subject are enacted.

No. 3. An Ordinance for the constitution of a Supreme Court of Judicature, and for other purposes relating to the better administration of justice in this Colony.

(The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1884.)

By this Ordinance the Superior Courts of Law and Equity in existence at the time of its passing were merged into one court called the Supreme Court of Tobago, with a general jurisdiction; a summary jurisdiction extending to 50*l.* at law (except in suits for the recovery of land, &c. when the jurisdiction is limited to 30*l.* annual value), and to 100*l.* in equity; with an appellate jurisdiction

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in respect of the decisions of police magistrates, whether in civil or criminal matters. The Ordinance also makes provision for the fusion of law and equity, for the amendment of the law in certain respects, for the admission of barristers, solicitors, and proctors, for the sittings of the court, for the regulation of its practice and procedure in certain respects, and generally for the better administration of justice.

Fourteen Acts and one Ordinance are repealed by the first schedule to the Ordinance.

No. 4. An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the process, practice, and mode of pleading in the Supreme Court in suits and proceedings at common law and in equity; and to make better provision for the execution of judgments and decrees, and for other matters.

(The Code of Civil Procedure.)

The object of this Ordinance is defined by its short title, viz., the Code of Civil Procedure. It is principally founded on the code which was prepared by Sir Julian Pauncefote for the Leeward Islands, and was passed into law in that Colony in the year 1877.

The first schedule to the Ordinance removes five Acts from the Statute Book.

There is no doubt that the Supreme Court Ordinance, 1884, and this Ordinance have, in conjunction, effected a great improvement in the administration of justice in this Colony.

No. 5. An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the limitation of actions and suits.

(The Limitation Ordinance, 1884.)

The Limitation Ordinance, 1879, in which certain defects existed, is repealed by this Ordinance, and the local law on the subject of the limitation of actions and suits is assimilated to the law of England.

No. 7. An Ordinance to provide for the compilation and publication of a collected and revised edition of the Statute Laws of this Colony.

(The Statute Laws (Revised Edition) Ordinance, 1884.)

Provision is by this Ordinance made for the carrying out of an important and much needed work, viz., the compilation and publication of a new Statute Book for the Colony. It is difficult for any one who is not acquainted with the subject to conceive the state of confusion into which the statute law of the Colony has fallen.

No. 13. An Ordinance to extend the jurisdiction of magistrates in civil cases, and to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the recovery of civil claims before them.

(The Petty Debt Ordinance, 1884.)

The principal alteration in the existing law which is effected by this Ordinance is the extension of the police magistrates' jurisdiction in civil cases from 5*l.* to 20*l.* in debt or assumpsit, and 10*l.* in personal actions.

Councils.

17. No change took place during the year in the Legislative Council. I regret, however, to have to state that Mr. James Kirk, a member of the Executive Council, and Inspector of Police and of Inland Revenue officers, absconded from the Island on the 20th November, in order to avoid an impending prosecution for the forgery of certain official returns. He was at once placed under interdiction and remained so until the end of the year. It may here be added that he was captured and brought back to the Island, and in January of the present year he was tried for embezzlement connected with the above-mentioned forgery, and, having pleaded guilty, he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

Civil Establishment.

18. Few noteworthy changes occurred among the superior public officers of the Colony during the year. Mr. Choppin, who had been acting as Chief Justice in the stead of Mr. Carrington, who continued to administer the Government, was in June transferred to Barbados as Acting Chief Justice of that Colony, and his place was taken by Mr. Albert Lewis, Judge of the Bridgetown Petty Debt Court, Barbados, and formerly Attorney-General of this Colony.

19. On the 4th September, Mr. Dougald Yeates, Police Magistrate and Coroner of the Leeward District, died after a long career of usefulness in the public service. Mr. S. J. Fraser, Acting Attorney-General, was appointed provisionally to the vacant office, but subsequently its duties were discharged by Mr. T. Newton Browne, Chief Clerk in the Government Office, St. Lucia.

20. A few changes took place among the holders of minor offices during the year, and one or two subordinate officers were on leave for short periods of time.

21. The cost of the fixed establishments may be summarised as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil establishment - -	3,621	10	1
Judicial establishment -	1,395	6	0
Ecclesiastical establishment -	1,060	0	0
Pension - - -	73	17	4
Add - -	6,150	13	5
Contingent and miscellaneous expenditure - -	7,331	4	7
Total - -	13,481	18	0

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Vital Statistics.

22. During the year 715 births, 88 marriages, and 607 deaths were registered. As compared with the results recorded in the previous year, these figures show a decrease of 61 births and 24 marriages, while on the other hand the deaths in 1884 were more than those in the preceding year by no less a number than 242. This large increase in the death-rate is, I believe, to be attributed principally, if not entirely, to an epidemic of whooping cough, which raged with much violence among children for a considerable portion of the year. In other respects the health of the population was of a normal character, and the opinions with respect to the general healthiness of the island, which were expressed in my last report, have undergone no change.

23. According to the Registrar General's returns, the population of the Colony on the 31st December was 18,987 persons, the number given by the census of 1881 being 18,051 persons.

Ecclesiastical.

24. The appropriation of the Ecclesiastical grant of 1,060*l.* remained unaltered, being distributed among the several denominations according to the number of their members respectively in the following proportions :—

	£
The Anglican Church - -	552
The Moravians - - -	272
The Wesleyans - - -	236

25. In consideration of these grants the Anglicans are required to maintain in the island three ministers, and the Moravians and Wesleyans two each.

Education.

26. The following tables exhibits the position occupied by each of the three denominations with respect to educational matters during the last three years :—

Denomination.	1882.			1883.			1884.		
	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Government Grant.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Government Grant.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Government Grant.
			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Anglican -	9	854	212 10 11	9	824	239 4 0	9	858	314 8 11
Moravian -	5	734	153 14 7	6	733	141 0 0	6	717	184 14 0
Wesleyan -	6	550	175 18 0	6	605	169 16 0	6	567	225 3 4
Total	20	2,138	542 3 6	21	2,162	550 0 0	21	2,142	724 6 3

27. It will be observed that while the Government grant has been considerably increased during the last of the three years, the number of scholars has undergone a slight diminution during the same year. The increase in the grant may be explained by the fact that the full sums earned were paid to the schools instead of the earnings, as in recent years, being subjected to a *pro ratâ* deduction, in order to bring them within the sum voted by the Legislature for educational purposes.

28. I desire earnestly to direct attention to the urgent need which exists for the early and thorough revision of the educational system of the Colony. It is a curious anomaly that there is no Legislative provision whatever on the subject, and I trust that it may be permitted at an early time to introduce an Ordinance into the Legislative Council dealing with the entire question. The principal defects of the system appear to be first, the want of systematic and frequent supervision of the elementary schools by a trained and competent Inspector; secondly, the want which exists in a considerable number of cases, of suitable school buildings and appliances; thirdly, the absence of provision for the examination of masters and mistresses; fourthly, the inadequate remuneration of the teachers generally; and fifthly, the utter absence of any private or public provision for middle class and higher education.

29. On the subject of education generally in this Colony, I take leave to refer to the remarks made in my report on the Blue Book for 1883.

Imports and Exports.

30. The total value of the imports was 33,656*l.*, while the exports were valued at 41,618*l.* It will be seen from the subjoined table that these figures compare very unfavourably with those of the preceding four years:—

Year.	Imports.				Exports.			
	United Kingdom.	British West Indies.	Foreign Countries.	Totals.	United Kingdom.	British West Indies.	Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1880 -	6,529	38,462	147	45,138	71,459	5,871	285	77,615
1881 -	33,051	26,205	325	59,582	76,253	6,934	396	83,583
1882 -	24,375	22,531	20	46,927	41,993	5,742	450	48,186
1883 -	25,038	21,631	332	47,001	37,089	5,173	5,774	48,036
1884 -	12,946	20,668	42	33,656	26,080	3,218	12,320	41,618

31. The decrease in imports was due to the depression in trade resulting from the operation of causes which will be presently

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referred to, but the following table will show that the decrease in the value of the exports was not owing to a diminution in their quantity, which was considerably above the average of the five years ending with 1884, but was the consequence of the exceedingly low prices obtainable for the staple product, viz., Muscovado sugar :—

Year.	Horned Cattle.	Cocoa.	Cocoanuts.	Fowls.	Goats.	Hides.	Horses.	Lime Juice.	Logwood.	Molasses.	Pigs.	Rum.	Sheep.	Sugar.	Wood, fuel.
	Heads.	Bags.	No.	Dozens.	No.	No.	No.	Puns.	Tons.	Puns.	No.	Puns.	No.	Cwts.	Cords.
1880 -	211	33	703,761	220	608	111	43	17	20	741	165	254	33	66,516	456
1881 -	110	14	893,041	185	274	200	13	11	31	969	139	214	4	72,555	149
1882 -	131	60	813,545	216	355	156	19	31	18	657	138	204	28	50,358	561
1883 -	131	40	720,609	148	273	192	29	14	13	887	72	100	14	50,853½	500
1884 -	98	75	850,584	95	253	223	23	14	3	1,108	43	276½	1	75,394	552
Total -	681	222	3,981,540	864	1,763	882	127	87	85	4,362	557	1048½	80	315,676½	2,218
Average -	136	44	796,308	173	353	176	25	17	17	872	111	210	16	63,135	444

Shipping.

32. The following table affords information with respect to the number and tonnage of vessels, both steam and sailing, which entered and cleared at the port of Scarborough, the sole port of entry in the Colony, during the last three years :—

Year.	Entered.						Cleared.					
	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.		
	No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.
1882 -	38	21,306	1,718	113	5,531	529	35	18,136	1,590	108	5,541	526
1883 -	48	53,584	2,085	103	5,776	489	34	34,525	1,069	89	5,091	431
1884 -	49	54,260	1,986	96	5,45	462	41	42,232	1,470	89	5,627	464
Total -	135	129,150	5,789	312	16,758	1,480	110	94,893	4,129	286	16,259	1,421
Average	45	4,305	1,929	104	5,586	493	36	31,631	1,376	95	5,419	473

Agriculture.

33. In consequence of the extremely low price of sugar, the metayers, who carry on a large, if not the principal, portion of the cane cultivation of the sugar estates became much disheartened, and at the request of the Agricultural Society, I issued invitations to them, by means of posters, to meet and confer with me at nine of the principal centres of population throughout the Island. They accordingly attended in large numbers and stated their distresses and grievances for the most part with moderation and fairness. I said what I could to induce them not to abandon the cultivation of the sugar cane, while at the same time turning their attention also to the raising of other tropical products; and I venture to think that the conferences were not unattended with good results. I was, however, convinced that the working of the metayer system was, in many districts at any rate, attended with considerable friction, and I accordingly, towards the close of the year issued a commission under the Great Seal addressed to several of the leading gentlemen of the Island, and to one or two metayers, authorizing them to inquire into and report upon the whole subject, with the view of enabling the Legislature at an early time to provide for the settlement, on an equitable basis, of the conflicting claims of the planters and the metayers.

34. It is satisfactory to be able to report that the cultivation of cocoa, for which many parts of the Island appear to be well adapted was considerably extended during the year, and greater intelligence was shown by small holders in the method of conducting it. With the view of obtaining valuable suggestions on the raising of this and other tropical products, the Local Government in the month of August entered into correspondence with Mr. H. Prestoe, the Government Botanist of Trinidad, with the object of procuring from him a report, made after a visit to the Island, which was to be undertaken in the early part of the present year (1885) and an inspection of its different districts. I regret, however, to say that the arrangements for this visit and report have not yet been completed.

35. The show of live stock and agricultural produce which was held by the Agricultural Society in the month of December was well attended, and was in every respect a marked and encouraging improvement on the first show, held in the preceding year.

Gaols and Prisoners.

36. There was nothing worthy of special mention which occurred under this head. The following table presents a comparative

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statement of the working of the gaol during the last three years:—

Year.	No. of Commitments.	Committed for Debt.	Committed for Custody for Trial, or for want of Sureties.	Committed for Penal Imprisonment.	No. of Prisoners previously convicted.			Commitments for				Daily average in Prison.	Admissions to Hospital.	Daily average on Sick List.	No. of Deaths.
					Once.	Twice.	Thrice or more.	Five years or more.	More than one and less than five years.	More than three months and less than one year.	Three months or less.				
1882 -	92	—	7	85	17	13	9	1	2	2	80	27·3	80	6·5	—
1883 - -	98	—	22	76	24	17	10	—	7	1	68	23·5	42	4·5	—
1884 - -	92	—	13	79	9	15	10	—	5	7	67	24·3	70	2·32	—
Total -	282	—	42	240	50	45	29	1	14	10	215	75·1	192	13·42	—
Average -	94	—	14	80	16	15	9	—	4	3	71	25·0	64	4·5	—

Criminal Statistics.

37. The number of convictions in the Superior Court during the year was somewhat in excess of the numbers during the preceding two years, but the number must still be considered as absolutely small. The following table gives the figures for the three years ending with 1884:—

	1882.	1883.	1884.	Total.	Average.
Number of cases before the magistrates -	866	1,043	782	2,691	897
Number of summary convictions.					
1. Offences against the person - -	91	163	261	515	171
2. Prædial larceny - - - -	15	11	25	51	17
3. Other offences against property - -	41	35	63	139	46
4. Other offences - - - -	253	239	433	925	308
Number of convictions in the Superior Court.					
1. Offences against the person - -	—	3	10	13	4
2. Arson - - - - -	1	—	—	1	—
3. Other offences against property - -	3	5	2	10	3
Number of persons acquitted.					
1. In the inferior courts - - -	142	116	89	347	115
2. In the Superior Court - - -	1	1	3	5	1

Hospital.

38. Although the Colonial Hospital still stands in need of considerable additions and improvements, yet it must be recorded with satisfaction that those which were effected in 1883 conduced in a considerable degree to the better appearance of the wards and the greater comfort of the patients during the year under review.

Early in the year Mr. C. A. Andrew was appointed to be superintendent in the place of Mr. J. H. Poll, resigned. The number of patients admitted was 113, of whom 81 were males and 32 females, as compared with 68 males and 19 females, or a total of 87 during the preceding year. The daily average number of patients in the hospital was 27, composed of 17 males and 10 females as against 17 males and 11·1 females, or 28·1 of both sexes, in 1883. There were 20 deaths as compared with 11 in 1883 and 18 in 1882.

General Remarks.

39. The year 1884 was an exceedingly disastrous one for the Colony. It opened with a depressed condition of the sugar market, and this gradually became worse and worse until at length sugar growers found themselves compelled to dispose of their sugar at prices which did not recoup them the prime cost of the article. The distress brought about by these circumstances was intensified by the failure in the month of April of Messrs. A. M. Gillespie & Co. of London, a firm of merchants who were the principal consignees of produce and who were directly or indirectly interested in most of the sugar estates of the Colony. Although the advances made by these gentlemen to planters for the carrying on of cultivation had been somewhat restricted of late years, yet their failure was a cause of serious embarrassment to the local sugar interest. Towards the close of the year it was hoped that relief would be afforded by the opening of the markets of the United States to sugar grown in the British West Indies, and the Legislative Council readily agreed to surrender the duties on foodstuffs and certain other articles imported from the United States in consideration of sugar, the produce of this Colony, being admitted free of duty into the ports of that country. But to the great disappointment of the whole community it appears that this hope was illusory, and there would seem at present to be small probability that any satisfactory arrangement in this direction will be concluded, and thus the main, and indeed almost sole industry of the Colony is left to struggle despondingly with its rival, the bounty aided produce of the beet.

40. As a natural consequence of the above-mentioned condition of affairs, the trade of the Colony suffered severely and the volume of imports was largely reduced. The amount of money in circulation underwent a considerable diminution, and the result of all these things was, as might naturally be anticipated, that there was much distress among individuals and also a sympathetic fall in the public revenue. It became necessary therefore both for individuals and for the Government to practice a rigid economy, and so difficult did it appear to many persons that the machinery of Government and the operations of agriculture could be carried on without any assistance that, in the latter part of the year, a proposal that a considerable loan for public works and for the making of advances to agriculturists should be raised by the Government, was brought forward and was receiving serious consideration.

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41. In the month of November that part of the report of the Royal Commissioners, Colonel Sir W. Crossman, R.E., K.C.M.G., and Mr. G. S. Baden-Powell, C.M.G., which related to the four Lesser Windward Islands was published and was perused with general interest. On the 23rd December the Draft Resolutions relating to the proposed union of the four islands, which had been framed by the Secretary of State for the consideration of the Local Legislatures, were published in an Extraordinary Gazette.

42. It affords me much satisfaction to be able to close this report by stating that all classes of the population have borne the distresses and privations which I have endeavoured to describe with admirable good temper, fortitude, and cheerfulness.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. W. CARRINGTON,
Administrator.

His Excellency
Sir Wm. Robinson, K.C.M.G
&c. &c. &c.

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 10.

Governor SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

Barbados, 8th April 1885.

FORWARDED.
The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

SIR, Government House, March 27, 1885.

IN reference to my Despatch of the 27th ultimo forwarding the Blue Book of St. Lucia for the year 1884, I now have the honour to forward to your Excellency my report thereon.

Finance.

	£	s.	d.
2. The balance on the 1st January 1884, was - - - - -	11,041	13	8
The revenue for 1884 was - -	46,118	4	5
Making a total of - -	57,159	18	1
The expenditure for 1884 was - -	39,592	17	4
Leaving a balance on 31st December 1884 of - - - -	17,567	0	9

3. These figures exhibit the largest revenue and expenditure ever collected and disbursed in St. Lucia. The revenue includes

the sum of 3,195*l.*, paid up insurance money for the burnt hospital, so that the excess of revenue over expenditure was actually only 3,331*l.*, which should be further reduced by 1,300*l.*, the amount of salaries remaining unpaid at the end of the year. The expenditure, on the other hand, included several large items of an unusual character, such as, moiety of the expenses of quarantining the "Bracadaile" 955*l.*, one third the cost of introducing coolies 3,144*l.*, bringing to account deficiency of 1881 in the Treasury 659*l.*, Castries harbour plans, 605*l.* Considering the crisis through which the sugar industry was passing, the result may be considered as satisfactory.

4. The revenue and expenditure may be tabulated thus :—

1884.	Customs.	Rum Duty.	Other Revenue.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Revenue - -	21,147	12,177	12,794	46,118

1884.	Salaries.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
	£	£	£
Expenditure - -	13,779	25,813	39,592

And fell into the several quarters, as follows :—

Quarter.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
First - - - - -	10,801	8,313
Second - - - - -	11,847	10,365
Third - - - - -	9,936	8,334
Fourth - - - - -	13,534	12,580
Total - - -	46,118	39,592

The increases in the revenue and expenditure during the last quarter were caused by bringing to account the large items mentioned in paragraph No. 3 above. Otherwise that quarter would have exhibited about the same figures as the third quarter.

5. The total "personal accounts," including the immigration account, but excluding the transactions of the savings' bank, exhibited the following figures :—

	£
Revenue - - -	13,530
Expenditure - -	24,595

The excess of expenditure was chiefly owing to the introduction of coolies.

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Assets and Liabilities.

6. The immediate assets available on the 31st December amounted to 24,122*l.*, and the immediate liabilities to 7,764*l.* The total assets on the same date were 57,822*l.*, and the total liabilities 40,164*l.*, leaving a surplus of assets over liabilities of 17,658*l.*

Debt.

7. The public debt on the 31st December was 32,400*l.* This is included in the liabilities mentioned in the last paragraph.

Savings' Bank.

8. The number of persons who had open accounts in the savings' bank on the 1st January was 178, and on the 31st December 233, the amount in deposit increasing from 1,332*l.* to 2,851*l.* The branch banks recently established were found to be total failures as depositors would not make use of them.

Public Works.

9. No new works were undertaken during the year. The expenditure on roads and bridges was 4,709*l.*; of this 813*l.* was spent in extending the Mabouya New Road, a work which has been temporarily suspended; the remainder for 188 miles of road gives an average of 20*l.* per mile. The roads cost much to keep up, especially in the northern part of the island where they wind in many instances round the sides of the mountains, and where, owing to the heavy rains, a little neglect renders them impassable.

Legislation.

10. The following Ordinances, none of which call for any comment, were passed during the year:—

No. 1. "The Appropriation Ordinance, 1884."
No. 2. To regulate the practice of flogging prisoners.
No. 3. To authorize the conditional discharge of prisoners under licence.
No. 4. To amend "The Roads and Public Works Ordinance, 1871."
No. 5. To amend "The Customs Ordinance, 1881."
No. 6. To provide for public officers giving security.
No. 7. "The Wrecks Enquiry Ordinance, 1884."
No. 8. "The Appropriation Ordinance, 1885."

Councils and Assemblies.

11. The Administrator, Mr. R. T. Goldsworthy, C.M.G., left the Colony for his new government, British Honduras, on the 10th May, and was succeeded by Mr. C. C. Knollys, M.A., on the 31st May. Mr. Macnamara Dix, C.M.G., Colonial Treasurer, after long and valuable service, retired on a pension on the 21st June,

and was succeeded by Mr. Garraway on the 25th July. Mr. W. H. Hyndman Jones, official member of both Councils, and Messrs. C. Chastanet and E. Du Boulay, unofficial members of the Legislative Council, were absent on leave from the 28th June, 3rd November, and 10th July respectively. Mr. E. G. Bennett acted for Mr. Chastanet from the 22nd December.

Civil Establishments.

12. Besides the two changes mentioned in the preceding paragraph there have been many other changes in the establishments. Mr. Choppin, acting Chief Justice, left to fill a similar post in Barbados, and was succeeded by Mr. A. Lewis. Mr. Meagher, Colonial Engineer, retired on a pension on the 31st December 1883, and his place has since been occupied by an acting officer. Many subordinate posts have also become vacant, and the new appointments have invariably been acting and provisional ones; in fact there are but few appointments now left in the island the holders of which are confirmed.

Pensions.

13. The pension list has been increased by the addition of the names of Mr. Meagher, with a pension of 115*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, and Mr. Dix with a pension of 228*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Population and Vital Statistics.

14. The population, which at the census in the year 1881 stood at 38,551, is now estimated to be 40,532.

15. The births during the year were 1,556, as follows; males 780, females 776, legitimate 526, illegitimate 1,030; of the births given above 95 were still-born, namely, legitimate 25, illegitimate 70. The birth-rate, exclusive of still-births, was 36 per thousand. The average rate for the years 1869 to 1883 was 42·7.

16. The deaths during the year were 1,407, or exclusive of still-births 1,312, which gives a death-rate of 32·3 per thousand, the highest ever known since the commencement of registration in 1869. The death-rate in 1883 was 29·4 and the average for the years 1869 to 1883 was 24·8 per thousand.

17. The reason for this low birth-rate and high death-rate is exceedingly difficult to find. The number of still-births was about the average. The low birth-rate may perhaps be accounted for by the departure of so many men in the prime of life for Panama leaving their families; while the high death-rate may be attributed to a small epidemic of measles which caused 109 deaths, and to the prevalence of dysentery during a portion of the year; remembering that the figures dealt with are small, so that a small departure from the average causes a large difference in the percentage.

18. There were 12 deaths from snake bites, which is an advance on the average of previous years. Comparatively few bites prove fatal. The Agricultural Society are introducing the mongoose with the expectation that these animals will gradually reduce the number of snakes.

ST. LUCIA.

19. An authentic case of longevity occurred in Louis Coudrey, who was born in Martinique on the 25th August 1769, and died in Castries on the 18th January, 1884, aged 114 years and 5 months.

Émigration and Immigration.

20. There has during the last two years been a large emigration to Panama. The numbers vary according to the season and circumstances. The flow in 1884 ceased almost entirely during the crop, but recommenced in July, and between that time and November over 900 left, making the total which had taken passage by the Royal mail steamers between the 27th April 1883 and the 9th February 1885 to be 3,084. Most of these are men in the prime of life; in some districts indeed the villages are almost denuded of males. Comparatively few only have returned, some with savings, but others again with broken health. The excitement for emigration at one time was so great that men even gave up posts under Government to go to the canal works. By the census of 1881 the number of males between 20 and 50 years of age was given as 7,585; it may be estimated, therefore, that about one-third of the entire male population between those ages left the island. This emigration is commonly spoken of as a great misfortune to the Colony. This, however, is a matter for argument, for though it seems an anomaly that the Government should be introducing coolie labour at a great expense while the natives are leaving, yet, on the other hand, during the recent and still continued agricultural crisis labour has been scarce, and this outlet may have saved the island from the danger of a labouring population suffering from severe want, and may be the means of introducing in the future a peasant proprietary established by the savings of the emigrants.

21. One coolie ship arrived during the year with 626 souls. The cost of this vessel was 10,300*l.* The total expenditure from the immigration fund during the year was 16,275*l.*

Education.

22. There were 15 elementary schools distributed among the ten towns and villages of the island, and another was opened at Christmas, every place now having at least one.

23. These schools are of two classes, those managed by religious bodies of the Roman Catholic faith, and those managed by the trustees of the Mico Charity, which are undenominational but have the Bible read daily. These schools work together with but little friction, and a study of the returns will show that they each have their proper functions to perform, for while the difference in the total number of pupils taught by each is not great, the number of girls in the Roman Catholic schools are three times and in the Mico schools but one third the number of boys. The reason for this is evident, the convents in Castries and Soufrière have excellent schools, and teach over 700 girls; the Roman

Catholic mixed schools on the contrary are very weak in the teaching element, and, in spite of belonging to the dominant religion cannot compete with the Mico schools, which have the advantage of masters trained at the institution of the Trust in Antigua.

24. The following is a comparative statement of the attendance at the two classes of schools :—

	No. of scholars on Rolls.						Average attendance.	
	1883.			1884.			1883.	1884.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.		
Roman Catholic schools - -	441	972	1,413	457	1,132	1,589	824	719
Mico schools -	1,045	324	1,369	973	335	1,308	719	672

Taking the number of children between the ages of six and 16 according to the census of 1881 to be under 9,000, the above would give an educational average of about 33 per cent., which, considering the scattered nature of the population and the small cost to the Government, cannot be considered unsatisfactory.

25. The cost to the Government of elementary education is 1,150*l.*, which grant is divided evenly between the two classes of schools and is disbursed by sub-committees of the Education Board.

26. The want of a school of a higher grade is very severely felt, as there are no means of education in the island for the sons of the middle and upper classes. A small Government subsidy would be sufficient.

Imports and Exports.

27. The following tables show the values of the imports and exports during the last three years :—

Years.	Import.	Export.
	£	£
1882 - - - -	134,546	222,719
1883 - - - -	191,191	213,823
1884 - - - -	146,460	145,865

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28. The direction of trade in the year 1884 was as follows:—

Countries.	Imports from.	Exports to.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	64,934	32,448
United States - - -	41,189	94,132
France - - - -	16,439	7,020
West Indies - -	23,211	12,259
Other Countries - -	687	6
Total - -	146,460	145,865

29. The export trade may be divided as follows:—

	£
Staple (sugar, molasses, and rum) -	129,202
Cocoa - - - -	12,465
Other produce of the Colony -	1,897
Re-exports - - -	2,301
	145,865

30. Although paragraph No. 27 shows a diminution in the *value* of exports, there has been no falling off in the *quantity* as exhibited by the following tables:—

Exports.	1883.	1884.
Sugar:—		
Usine - - - Tons	1,463	1,395
Muscovado - - - „	6,166	7,075
Molasses - - - Galls.	209,250	335,900
Rum - - - „	1,658	13,800
Cocoa - - - Lbs.	307,120	498,610

Shipping.

31. The following table shows the number and tonnage of vessels that entered during the year :—

Countries from whence.	Sailing Vessels.		Steam Vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Great Britain - - -	17	6,494	41	40,607
United States - -	11	2,226	26	22,235
West Indies - - -	186	9,885	121	127,711
Other Countries - - -	5	1,445	1	597
Total - -	219	20,050	189	191,150

Grand Total -	Vessels - -	408
	Tonnage - -	211,200

Agriculture.

32. The prospects in this direction are exceedingly gloomy, and unless there should speedily be a change for the better the greater portion of the estates which produce muscovado sugar must be allowed to go out of cultivation.

33. Fortunately of late years several central factories for the manufacture of crystals have been established, which will be able to hold their own.

34. Nearly 500,000lbs. of cocoa were produced, which is an advance on previous years but is less than the output of 1878. The cultivation of this product is as a rule exceedingly slovenly and neglected. A little care and pruning would double the crop from the existing estates.

35. Excellent tobacco can be produced, and commands a ready sale at a good profit. A few acres only of this plant are cultivated.

36. Logwood is now a drug in the market, and will not pay for exportation.

Hospitals.

37. *Colonial Hospital.*—Early in the year the Colonial Hospital was burnt down, and the patients had in consequence to be established in temporary buildings at the expense of a great deal

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of inconvenience and overcrowding. This was increased by the new coolies, a number of whom always require treatment on first landing, and, as there are no estate hospitals, have to be treated in the Government institutions. The plans for a new hospital are completed, and building operations should shortly be commenced.

38. *District Hospitals.*—Besides the Colonial Hospital, there are three district hospitals with resident surgeons. The average number of patients in each is 21.

38A. The following table shows the number of cases of each kind of disease treated in the hospitals in the year, with the number of deaths from each disease :—

Diseases treated.	No. of cases.	No. of deaths.
Abscess - - - - -	37	—
Anœmia - - - - -	99	8
Disease of bones and joints - - -	11	—
„ digestive organs - - -	232	23
„ ears and eyes - - -	41	—
„ genito-urinary organs - -	30	—
„ circulatory organs - -	71	7
„ nervous system - - -	15	5
„ skin - - - -	84	—
Fevers - - - - -	1,050	16
Fractures and dislocations - - -	10	—
Erysipelas - - - - -	7	2
Marasmus - - - - -	5	2
Rheumatism - - - - -	19	1
Syphilis - - - - -	32	—
Tumours - - - - -	5	—
Ulcers - - - - -	590	—
Wounds and contusions - - -	77	3
Miscellaneous - - - -	46	—
Total - - -	2,461	67

39. *Government Institutions.*—The number of admissions into all the Government institutions was 3,017. Of these 2,840 were discharged cured or relieved, and 155 died.

40. *Dispensaries.*—Dispensaries are established at nine towns and villages, one at every village of any size. Those in the towns are open daily, and in the villages once a week, when the medical officer of the district attends to prescribe and to vaccinate.

41. The number of patients treated during the year at the dispensaries was 8,270, or more than one fifth of the entire population, and to this may in a great measure be attributed a diminution of obeah and medicine people, though both are still far too common.

42. *Yaws.*—The loathsome disease called "yaws" is steadily but slowly decreasing; the number on the 31st December in the hospital appropriated to that disease was 44.

43. *Lunatics.*—There were 17 harmless lunatics in the asylum; six are kept for this Colony in the Grenada Asylum.

Criminal Statistics.

44. *Police Report.*—The number of offences reported to the police during the year was 1,634, or 116 less than the previous year.

45. *Apprehensions and Summonses.*—The number of persons brought before the magistrates' courts was 2,097, as compared with 2,245 in the previous year, and 2,141 in the year 1882.

They were disposed of as follows:—

Convicted - - - -	1,078
Discharged - - - -	564
Acquitted - - - -	427
Committed for trial - - -	28
	2,097

46. *Summary Convictions.*—The convictions were divided as follows:—

Offences against the person - -	337
Prædial larceny - - -	26
Other offences against property -	86
Other offences - - -	629
	1,078

47. *Superior Courts.*—The number of cases tried in the superior courts was 28, with the following result:—

Judgment for the Crown - -	23
„ „ prisoner - -	5
	28

48. The convictions were divided as follows:—

Offences against the person - -	15
„ „ property other than prædial larceny - - -	8
	23

The only serious offences against the person were, man slaughter, three (one case); attempt at murder, two; rape, one.

Gaols.

49. There were 381 persons committed to gaol in 1884, as follows:—for safe custody, 102; for punishment, 279. Divided as follows:—men, 275; women, 106; juveniles, nil.

50. The daily average number in prison was, men, 45; women, 12. The average on the sick list was 2·53. There was one death.

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Concluding Remarks.

51. The rainfall for the year ranged in different parts of the island from 75 to 80 inches, which is below the average.

52. In spite of the remarks contained in paragraphs above, Nos. 14 to 17, the general health of the island was fairly good. There was a small epidemic of measles in the early part of the year, and a good deal of dysentery at one time, especially at Soufrière, where the water is bad. The island was placed in quarantine by most, if not all, her neighbours during August and a part of September, for the reason that the coolie ship "Bracadaile" on arrival reported several cases of cholera on her voyage from Calcutta. This action was quite unnecessary, as the vessel herself was most rigidly quarantined by the authorities at St. Lucia, but from all reports the panic was greater in the neighbouring islands than in St. Lucia itself.

53. Although this report does not represent the affairs of the Colony in that gloomy light generally adopted, it cannot be doubted that the present state of things is most critical, and calls for much anxiety on the part of all connected with the island. It may be hoped, however, that, owing to the central factories, the abundance of rich forest land suitable for cocoa, and to the excellent harbour of Castries, the Colony may shortly return to a condition as prosperous as that in any past time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS,
Administrator.

His Excellency
Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G.,
Governor in Chief.

ANTIGUA.

ANTIGUA.

No. 11.

Governor Sir C. C. LEES, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL of DERBY, K.G.

Government House, Antigua,
March 25, 1885.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Antigua for the year 1884, with the Acting Colonial Secretary's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. LEES,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of ANTIGUA for the year 1884.

ANTIGUA.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue amounted to 45,295*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, being 1,240*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* in excess of the receipts of the previous year.

2. The import duties realised 25,525*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, showing an increase of 1,864*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, as compared with 1883, the increase being due to the large importations of rum, which, however, were accompanied by a decrease in excise duty.

	In 1883.			In 1884.		
3. The import duty on	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
rum was - -	415	15	1	2,524	13	4
The excise duty on rum was - -	5,651	2	0	3,987	12	6
	6,066	17	1	6,512	5	10

4. In consequence of the large sugar crop, the export duty gave 944*l.* 4*s.* more than in 1883, the receipts for the two years being 4,044*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, and 3,100*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* respectively.

5. The receipts under the head of taxes show a diminution of 178*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, due to the expiration of the Act passed in 1880 imposing a small land tax (1*d.* per acre) to meet the cost of the destruction of rats.

6. There was also a diminution in the amount of fines, penalties, and forfeitures.

7. The Post Office receipts exceeded those of 1883 by 127*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*

8. The expenditure amounted to 42,607*l.* 8*s.* 7½*d.*, and was 577*l.* 9*s.* 4½*d.* less than that of 1883, and 2,688*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.* less than the revenue of the year.

9. The following is a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Presidency on the 31st December 1884 :—

Assets.

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Waterworks Sinking Fund	31,396	0	9			
Sinking Fund, Loan 1880 -	581	14	9			
Due by other Presidencies	242	18	0			
Due by Ecclesiastical Tax -	11	18	6½			
				32,232	12	0½
Cash in bank, current account	3,870	1	8½			
Cash in deposit, Immigration	800	0	0			
Cash in hands of Crown Agents - - -	1,202	2	10			
				5,872	4	6½
				38,104	16	7
Excess of liabilities - - -				11,591	19	0½
				49,696	15	7½

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Holder's Local Loan, 1880	5,171	0	0			
Holder's Local Loan, 1882	2,000	0	0			
Saving's Bank Loan -	8,200	0	0			
Waterworks Loan -	32,500	0	0			
				47,871	0	0
Immigration current account - - -				377	13	2
Immigration deposit account - - -				800	0	0
Barbuda, Island of -				625	16	0
Escheated estates -				20	8	1½
Unrepresented estates -				1	18	4
				49,696	15	7½

Public Debt.

10. No contribution to the sinking fund for the redemption of the waterworks loan was necessary in 1884, the amounts invested up to 1883 being sufficient to pay off the loan, 30,000*l.* of which is due on the 15th May next, and the remaining 2,500*l.* on the 15th May 1891.

11. A sinking fund was formed during the year to provide for the extinction of the loan of 5,171*l.* raised in 1880 to assist in paying the balance then due from the general revenue to the Immigration Fund. The loan is repayable on the 8th June 1905, and the annual contribution to the sinking fund is 129*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, the sum of 581*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* paid in 1884 being for the four and a half years from June 1880 to December 1884, no payments having been previously made in consequence of delay in the amendment of the Act relating to the loan.

12. The local loan of 2,000*l.* remaining due at the end of 1884 has been repaid this year.

Public Works.

13. The amount expended on public works during the year was 3,647*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*

14. A new iron lighthouse was built on Sandy Island at a cost of 1,642*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*

15. A treadwheel was erected in the gaol, at a total cost of 1,156*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, of which 480*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* was expended in 1884.

16. The erection of the iron tanks imported in 1883 for the town of Parham, was completed at an expense of 142*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*

The total cost of these tanks, which contain 24,000 gallons, was 544*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, including the cost of spouting and of pipes to bring the water into the town.

17. New quarters were built for the superintendent of the Halberton Institution, at a cost of 218*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*

18. Considerable expenditure was also incurred in the repair and maintenance of existing works and buildings.

Legislation.

19. Eleven Acts were passed by the Legislature of Antigua during the year, relating principally to finance. Among them may be mentioned the Act exempting from the payment of import duty articles produced or manufactured in other parts of the Leeward Islands. Similar Acts have been passed by the Legislatures of the other Presidencies.

20. Twenty Acts were passed by the general Legislature of the Leeward Islands, the most important being the following :—

No. 15, providing that the Appeal Court shall sit in the other islands as well as in Antigua.

No. 17, for the transfer of the jurisdiction of the West Indian Incumbered Estates Court to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

Neither of these Acts, which contain suspending clauses, has yet received Her Majesty's approval.

No. 19, consolidating the laws relating to lunatics.

No. 20, which is an adaptation of the Imperial "Companies Acts."

Population.

21. The Registrar General's returns show an increase of 329 in the number of deaths, the number returned in 1884 being 1,578, against 1188 in 1883.

22. There was also a decrease in the number of births, 1,356 having been registered in 1884, against 1,510 in 1883.

Education.

23. There was a slight decrease in the average attendance at elementary schools during the year.

24. A grant in aid of a grammar school was made to the Rev. S. E. Branch under the provisions of an Act passed in 1882, which authorises the expenditure of a sum not exceeding 200*l.* a year in aid of the education of the children of the middle and upper classes. The school was opened in April last, and now numbers 30 scholars.

Imports and Exports.

25. The total value of imports is returned at 169,500*l.*, against 183,636*l.* in 1883.

ANTIGUA.

26. The value of the exports is returned at 177,807*l.*, against 222,676*l.* in 1883, the decrease, 44,869*l.*, being in consequence of the fall in the price of sugar.

27. The quantity of sugar shipped during the last three years is as follows :—

	Hhds.
1882 - - - - -	15,055
1883 - - - - -	12,402
1884 - - - - -	16,178

Shipping.

28. The following is a comparison of the shipping returns for 1883 and 1884 :—

Year.		Entered.		Cleared.	
		No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1883	Sailing Vessels -	398	26,207	387	25,575
	Steamers - -	153	155,219	153	155,219
1884	Sailing Vessels -	380	27,038	385	35,958
	Steamers - -	164	163,640	164	163,640

Crime.

29. The number of commitments to gaol during the year was 725, against 872 in 1883. The total number of summary convictions was 4,056, against 4,281 in the previous year.

(Signed) P. BURNS,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 12.

GOVERNOR SIR C. C. LEES, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

Government House, St. Kitts,
May 1, 1885.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the report of the Acting President of Montserrat on the Blue Book of that Island for 1884.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. LEES,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.,
&c. &c.

President's Office,
Montserrat, April 14, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to his Excellency the Governor the Blue Book of this Presidency for 1884, with the accompanying report thereon.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for 1884.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Revenue of 1884 - -	5,838	11	4	Expenditure of 1884 -	5,231	13	3
Received on account of Waterworks - -	95	5	7	Expenditure on account of Waterworks transferred	469	13	3
Total - -	5,933	16	11	Total - -	5,701	6	6
Balance on 1st January 1884 - - -	531	13	6	Balance in Treasury, 1st January 1885 - -	764	3	11
	6,465	10	5		6,465	10	5

MONTSERRAT.

The following is a statement of the financial condition of the Presidency on the 1st January 1884, showing an excess of liabilities over assets of 3,289*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance Treasury - -	764	3	11	General Post Office balance on postal account -	4	11	9
Colonial Bank Interest -	4	5	9	Waterworks Debentures -	3,900	0	0
Waterworks Sinking Fund	130	10	0	Crown Agents general account - - -	42	5	4
Arrears of Revenue, being land tax due on estates in Incumbered Estates Court - - -	58	4	9	Loan in aid of Revenue 1882 - - -	300	0	0
Total - -	957	4	5				
Excess of Liabilities -	3,289	12	8				
	4,246	17	1		4,246	17	1

Public Debt.

The debt on Water Works loan of 3,900*l.* is provided for by the issue of Debentures for 3,700*l.*, with interest at 5 per cent. per annum and 1 per cent. per annum for sinking fund, and Debentures for 200*l.*, with interest at 4½ per cent. per annum and 1 per cent. per annum for sinking fund.

The Revenue loan of 300*l.* is payable on 31st December 1887 with interest at 4½ per cent. per annum.

Legislation.

Six Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1884, namely:—

No. 1. An Ordinance to regulate the keeping, selling, carrying, and importation of dynamite and other explosive substances.

No. 2. An Ordinance to prohibit the use of dynamite or other explosives for the purpose of catching or destroying fish in public or private fisheries.

No. 3. An Ordinance to continue the duty on exports.

No. 4. An Ordinance to exempt from the payment of duty on their importation into this Presidency all articles, goods, and things, the growth, produce or manufacture, or in use in any of the islands forming the Colony of the Leeward Islands.

No. 5. An Ordinance to amend and continue the duty on articles imported into this Presidency.

No. 6. An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Presidency for 1885.

Table showing the value of imports and exports, 1882, 1883, and 1884:—

	Imports from.				Exports to.			
—	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1882	8,217	19,052	1,511	28,780	33,004	3,342	1,774	38,120
1883	12,778	15,573	905	29,256	24,612	3,577	3,305	31,494
1884	8,110	15,009	2,479	25,598	13,761	1,293	17,624	32,678

The following table shows the revenue received from the principal articles of food stuffs imported, in 1882, 1883, and 1884:—

Articles.	1882.		
	Quantity.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue.
			£ s. d.
Bread and biscuits -	133⅙ brls.	2s. 6d. per brl.	16 12 11
Corn meal - -	489 brls.	Free	—
Flour - - -	2,564½ brls.	2s. per brl.	256 9 0
Beef and Pork - -	259 brls.	8s. per brl.	103 12 0
Butter - - -	11,208 lbs.	1d. per lb.	46 14 0
Fish, dried - -	210,905 lbs.	1s. per 100 lbs.	105 9 0
Fish, Pickled - -	376 brls.	2s. per brl.	37 12 0
Lard - - -	5,446 lbs.	½d. per lb.	11 6 11
Rice - - -	40,802 lbs.	2s. per 100 lbs.	40 16 2
Peas - - -	82¼ bush.	6d. per bush.	2 1 1
Cheese - - -	5,135 lbs.	1d. per lb.	21 7 11

(*continued.*)

Articles.	1883.		1884.	
	Quantity.	Revenue.	Quantity.	Revenue.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Bread and biscuits -	85⅙ brls.	10 12 11	148¼ brls.	18 10 7
Corn meal - -	129 brls.	—	272 brls.	—
Flour - - -	2,160 brls.	216 0 0	2,328 brls.	232 16 0
Beef and pork - -	254⅝ brls.	101 17 0	276 brls.	110 8 0
Butter - - -	12,680 lbs.	52 16 8	12,341 lbs.	51 8 5
Fish, dried - -	222,575 lbs.	111 5 9	252,814 lbs.	126 8 1
Fish, pickled - -	554½ brls.	55 9 0	574 brls.	57 8 0
Lard - - -	5,742 lbs.	11 19 3	6,275 lbs.	13 0 5
Rice - - -	18,725 lbs.	18 14 7	34,460 lbs.	34 9 3
Peas - - -	63¼ bush.	1 11 8	36 5/12 bush.	0 18 3
Cheese - - -	4,602 lbs.	19 3 6	4,383 lbs.	18 5 3

MONTSERRAT.

Table showing revenue received from ale, beer, spirits, and wines, imported 1882, 1883, and 1884:

Articles.	1882.		
	Quantity.	Rate of Duty.	Revenue.
			£ s. d.
Ale, Beer, &c. - -	1,462½ doz.	6d. per doz.	36 11 2
Brandy - - -	410⅛ galls.	4s. per gal.	82 0 8
Gin and Rum - -	980½ galls.	3s. per gal.	147 1 0
Whiskey - - -	123⅛ galls.	4s. per gal.	24 12 8
Wines - - -	146l. value	15 per cent. ad. val.	21 18 0

(*continued.*)

Articles.	1883.		1884.	
	Quantity.	Revenue.	Quantity.	Revenue.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Ale, beer, &c. - -	1,258½ doz.	31 9 3	1,047 doz.	26 3 6
Brandy - - -	565⅝ gals.	113 3 4	430$\frac{7}{12}$ gals.	86 10 8
Gin and Rum - -	2,848¼ gals.	427 3 9	2,892 gals.	435 4 4
Whiskey - - -	214½ gals.	42 18 8	216½ gals.	43 6 0
Wines - - -	120l. 17s. 4d.	18 2 8	218l. 4 2	32 15 6

Principal articles of export in 1884, the growth produce and manufacture of the Island:—

Year.	Sugar.		Molasses.	Lime Juice, concentrated.	Lime Juice, raw.
	Tierces.	Barrels.	Puns.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1884 -	2,494	3,166	281	13,966	133,139

(*continued*).

Year.	Lime Essence.	Fresh Limes.	Tamarinds.	Cattle, Horned.	Sheep.
	Cases.	Boxes.	Barrels.		
1884 -	26	953	275	60	73

Shipping.

The number of vessels entered and cleared at the Port of Plymouth in 1883 and 1884 respectively, was as follows :—

		Entered.			Cleared.		
		No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.
1883	Sailing - -	235	7,251	952	236	7,296	964
	Steam - -	25	21,973	651	23	19,215	581
1884	Sailing - -	255	6,294	956	278	6,740	1,089
	Steam - -	34	31,294	896	24	22,443	649

Vital Statistics.

The population by the census of 1881 was—

Males.	Females.	Total.
4,639	5,449	10,083

The following is a return showing the numbers of births and deaths registered for 1883 and 1884 respectively :—

	Births.	Deaths.
1883 - - - -	494	201
1884 - - -	501	253

The birth rate per 1,000 of the population in 1884 was 45·3 and the death rate per 1,000 was 23·3.

Savings Bank.

£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
—			10 depositors of less than 1*l.* - - -	2	14	10
—			11 „ over 1*l.*, and less than 5*l.* - -	28	9	2
—			8 „ „ 5*l.* „ „ 10*l.* - -	59	0	6
—			3 „ „ 10*l.* „ „ 20*l.* - -	38	9	9
—			9 „ „ 20*l.* „ „ 30*l.* - -	214	7	7
—			1 „ „ 30*l.* „ „ 40*l.* - -	39	15	0
—			2 „ „ 40*l.* „ „ 50*l.* - -	97	12	0
—			1 „ „ 50*l.* „ „ 60*l.* - -	59	19	0
—			1 „ „ 70*l.* „ „ 80*l.* - -	76	6	4
-			6 „ „ 100*l.* - - -	780	9	8
			54	1,397	4	4
82	8	10	Interest account.			
4	1	2	Expense Account.			
1,150	0	0	Deposits at Interest.			
160	14	4	Cash.			
1,397	4	4		1,397	4	4

MONTSERRAT.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of persons committed in 1884 was 63 males, 15 females, 8 juveniles; making a total of 86. Of these, 9 were for safe custody, for want of bail, pending trial, and 77 were for purposes of penal imprisonment, viz., males 55, females 14, and juveniles 8.

Of those sentenced to penal imprisonment, 4 were for one year or more but less than five years, 3 were for more than three months and less than one year, and 70 were for three months or less. Of previous convictions there were 6 once, 3 twice, and 8 thrice, or more.

Comparative table of the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last three years.

	1882.	1883.	1884.
Number of persons apprehended or summoned before the magistrates - - -	694	719	826
Number of summary convictions:—			
1. Offences against the person - -	96	159	145
2. Prædial larceny - - -	27	13	18
3. Offences against property other than prædial larceny - - -	83	46	94
4. Other offences - - - -	105	80	103
Number of convictions in superior courts:—			
1. Offences against the person - -	1	—	4
2. Prædial larceny - - -	—	—	—
3. Offences against property other than prædial larceny - - -	1	9	3
4. Other offences - - - -	—	2	—
Number of persons acquitted:—			
1. In the inferior court - - -	368	416	456
2. In the Superior Court - - -	1	6	3

General Remarks.

The health of the Island has been fairly good. At the close of the year, trade which in 1883 had greatly increased could not fail to be very seriously affected by the low prices obtainable for the staple products of the Island, sugar and lime juice.

The water works reservoir has been covered in with a substantial galvanized iron roof, and the town of Plymouth and its vicinity have now the advantage of an abundant supply of delicious water.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. MEADE,
Acting President.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary
of the Leeward Islands, Antigua.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS.

No. 13.

Governor Sir C. C. LEES, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

Government House, Antigua,
March 19, 1885.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis for 1884, with the Acting President's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. LEES,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

President's Office, St. Kitts,
March 14, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for 1884, in triplicate, and to offer the following comments on some of the principal subjects alluded to therein:—

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand January 1st - -	4,405	17	$3\frac{3}{4}$
Less arrears of 1883 paid in 1884 -	944	7	11
	3,461	9	$4\frac{3}{4}$
Receipts from various sources -	42,787	17	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Reimbursement Basseterre building loan - - - -	400	5	4
	46,649	11	10

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS.

A comparison with the Revenue of 1883 gives the following results:—

Increase.	£	*s.*	*d.*	*Decrease.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Import duties - -	336	17	1	Export tonnage - -	192	17	3
Cavalry duties - -	917	19	10	Judical fees - -	98	19	8
Export duties - -	278	14	0	Miscellaneous - -	106	17	2½
Post office - -	103	19	4½	Basseterre loan - -	281	4	3
Liquor licenses - -	225	4	3	Anguilla remitted -	182	4	4
Interest - - -	147	15	8	Water rates - -	61	7	11
Stamps - - -	131	3	3	Smaller sources - -	45	3	3½
Wharfage dues - -	292	5	1½				
Smaller sources - -	147	2	4				
Total - -	2,581	0	11	Total - -	968	13	11

Thus showing an increased income over 1883 of 1,612*l.* 7*s.*

Expenditure.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Amounted to, for general purposes -	40,084	4	8
And the loan to the Basseterre protection works was - - -	2,075	2	5
	42,159	7	1

A comparison with 1883 shows the following:—

Increase.	£	*s.*	*d.*	*Decrease.*	£	*s*	*d.*
Establishments - -	712	5	8	Federal establishment -	853	10	3½
Education - - -	100	0	0	Police and gaols - -	172	3	5
Hospitals - - -	153	17	7	Conveyance of mails -	369	4	0
Pensions - - -	152	5	11	Stamp and dies - -	90	6	3
Works and buildings -	861	15	3	Stationery - -	98	6	8
Erection of piers - -	364	3	1	Anguilla - - -	212	19	6¼
Roads, &c. - -	106	4	7	Other sources - -	160	13	0½
Sanitary and Registration -	235	3	3				
Basseterre loan - -	192	11	5				
Other sources - -	78	13	8				
Total - -	2,957	0	5	Total - -	1,957	3	2¼

In explanation of this comparison I would state that Establishments had several exceptional votes, namely,—President's back pay 86*l.* 10*s.*; grants for pay of Magistrate of Anguilla while under suspension, 169*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*; Provost Marshal's back pay 153*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, and the Postmaster's pay was increased 50*l.*, and grant for medical contingencies 50*l.*; in addition to this many salaries of 1883 were paid in 1884, which should have been charged to arrears 1883; education grant was doubled; hospitals incurred increased liability; pensions were increased; large and exceptional public work was undertaken; piers were repaired and

enlarged; vaccinating in Anguilla cost some 262*l*. On the other hand in the Federal expenditure diminished outlay occurred, caused by the death of the Hon. the late Colonial Secretary, and the cost of transport, the maintenance of the Nooya, and some savings were effected in other branches of the service.

The assets and liabilities of the Presidency were :—

Liabilites.				Assets.		
£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
			General revenue deposited in Bank	5,700	0	0
			Householders for Basseterre loan	1,185	0	0
			Anguilla Chest	18	0	3½
			Crown Agents	4,791	5	3
			Treasurer's current account	208	19	8
			Immigration Debenture Account	6,566	17	6
			Basseterre Protection Works	2,075	2	5
			General government, Leeward Islands	243	7	3
2,200	0	0	Debenture holders			
10,772	12	7½	Immmigration fund			
379	15	9	Escheated funds			
154	9	3½	Unrepresented estates			
44	16	1	Land claimants			
10	2	8½	Casual receiver			
7,226	15	11	General revenue			
20,788	12	4½		20,788	12	4½

Legislation.

With the exception of the Ordinance for protecting the town of Basseterre from future floods, the legislation was not important.

Twelve Ordinances wers passed relating to—

Finance.

No. 9.—Remitting for one year, the land tax in Nevis.

No. 3.—Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

No. 4.—Indemnity Ordinance for payments in excess of Estimates 1883.

No. 7.—Ordinance abolishing protective duty on rum.

No. 8.—Assimilating excise and import duty on rum.

Municipal.

Nos. 1 and 6.—Amending public piers and wharves Ordinance.

No. 5.—Ordinance vesting Crown lands in a trustee for such uses as the Legislature shall determine.

Nos. 10 and 11.—Ordinance for protecting town of Basseterre against flood and raising debentures for payment of works connected therewith.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS.

Immigration.

No. 2.—Remission for one year of Saint Christopher immigration tax.

No. 12.—Ordinance commuting passage money due to Indian immigrants in Nevis.

The very large crop of the year tended but slightly to allay the anxiety caused by the sugar crisis, and agriculturists look forward with considerable apprehension to the results of the year 1885. The early cessation of the rainfall in the Valley District in St. Kitts, and the Windward and Southern parts of Nevis must shorten the coming crop, and this, with the low price of sugar, offers a gloomy picture.

All cling to the hope that the Government will be enabled to negotiate a reciprocity treaty with the United States of America.

The following table shows the increasing tendency of the sugar trade flowing in that direction:—

	Sugar.				Rum.	Molasses.
	Hhds.	Half Hhds.	Barrels.	Bags.	Puns.	Puns.
United Kingdom -	8,452	586	5,462	3,540	1,089	—
U. States of America -	8,384	443	6,028	401	1	290
Dominion of Canada -	—	—	97	—	—	1,600
Foreign West Indies -	—	—	687½	—	1	963¼
British West Indies -	—	—	26½	—	22½	326
Total - -	16,836	1,029	12,301	3,941	1,113½	—

The trade of the Presidency may be summarised as follows:—

	Imports from			Island exports to			Foreign goods exported to		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - -	102,048	4	6	97,950	15	0	38	5	0
British Colonies - -	20,702	1	0	6,460	8	7	3,263	16	11
U. States of America -	84,124	3	6	85,831	13	6	8,489	6	11
Other Foreign Places -	6,708	17	4	3,462	15	8	—		
Total - -	213,583	6	4	193,705	12	9	11,791	8	10

There are no discriminating duties in this Presidency; all goods from whatever port of importation are subjected to the same tariff of charges, and yet with this open field for competition distinctive and marked lines of commerce are so visible that a treaty with America might slightly modify but certainly not obliterate them.

Our food supply is but with slight exception from America, thus the value of flour was 33,234*l.*; corn meal, 6,048*l.*; bread and biscuits 1,032*l.*; cheese 1,041*l.*; fish 2,512*l.* coffee 613*l.*; lard 1,038*l.*; beef 897*l.*; butter 5,438*l.*; hams 375*l.*; pork 7,453*l.*; refined sugar 367*l.*; tea 72*l.*; and groceries 226*l.*, while the importations from the United Kingdom were: flour, corn, meal, bread and biscuits, coffee, lard and beef, nil; rice 3,645*l.*; cheese 30*l.*; dried fish 27*l.*; butter 181*l.*; hams 58*l.*; pork 80*l.*; refined sugar 191*l.*; tea 171*l.*; groceries 3,017*l.*; and from Canada they were confined to fish 6,254*l.*

The import and value of plantation stores were—

From America: grain 4,217*l.*; wood, lumber, &c. 5,639*l.*; live stock 1,650*l.*; bran 29*l.*; general stores 80*l.*; hardware 176*l.*; oil meal 3,699*l.*

From England: grain, oats 3,645*l.*; shooks 75*l.*; hoops 1,992*l.*; bran 86*l.*; bricks 443*l.*; coal 1,190*l.*; general stores 772*l.*; hardware 6,631*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*; oil meal 761*l.*; tallow 499*l.*; and from Canada: grain, oats 31*l.*; lumber 2,157*l.*

The value of machinery and manure was (being free of duty)—

	£
England, machinery - - -	5,819
America „ - - -	nil.
England, manure - - - -	6,707
America, „ - - - -	806

In the matter of textile fabrics, &c. from England: cottons 21,732*l.*; fancy goods 267*l.*; glass ware 266*l.*; leather 147*l.*; soap 40*l.*; earthenware 6*l.*; furniture 261*l.*, boots and shoes 253*l.*; haberdashery and hats nil; and lastly under the head of liquids, tobacco, candles, &c.

The following importations were entirely confined to England: sperm candles 500*l.*; cigars 100*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*; malt 1,675*l.*; spirits 2,143*l.*; wine 1,056*l.*; aërated waters 374*l.*

America sent kerosine oil 1,491*l.*; tobacco 2,141*l.*, and there were no English imports of these articles; thus it will be seen that the United Kingdom cannot compete with America for food supplies, nor can America compete with the United Kingdom for textile fabrics, boots, shoes, haberdashery, hardware or machinery. An experienced dealer mentioned to me yesterday, and he is recently from the States, that he could pay the eight per cent. ad valorem duty on British manufactures and compete successfully against American goods coming in free.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS.

Canada could not supply these Islands with food stuffs; it is a matter of notoriety that flour ground in high latitudes will not keep in the warm climate of the West Indies, but she could compete with America for lumber and fish, and a slight duty would be but a fair reprisal as against the high duty she imposes on West Indian produce.

The fishing grounds are common to both, but the sea carriage would be much longer from America, hence the lack of competition.

America and Canada are on the same footing now, and yet there is no competition in their trade, it is as nil as regards the latter, compared to the thousand of pounds purchased from America.

The deposits in the savings bank in St. Kitts show a falling off of 311*l.*, while those of Nevis give an increase of 503*l.*; this is due to the expected departure of the coolies in 1885 from the latter Island, and the collection of their debts, and their safe deposit in the savings bank.

The analyser of vital statistics reports that "the epidemic of "measles has been the worst epidemic. both on account of the "severity of its type, and its extensive prevalence, that has ever "visited our shores. One of its most notable features was the "large proportion of middle aged and old persons who were "attacked. This was doubtless due to the rarity and trivial "character of outbreaks of measles in these latitudes, and the "consequent want of protection by an attack in childhood of so "many of the adult population. It is probable that over 4,000 "people, or about one in seven of the whole population were "attacked."

In the two first quarters of the year tetanus was unusually prevalent, some 13 deaths occurred.

In the latter part of the year the public health improved.

The births for the year were:—

St. Kitts - - - -	1,270	
Nevis - - - -	628	
		1,898

The deaths—

St. Kitts - - - -	1,197	
Nevis - - - -	444	
		1,641
Excess of births - -		257

In the absence of a Federal Blue Book, a document which it seems to me is much wanted, I trust it may not be deemed out of place if I allude to the gratification felt by the inhabitants of this Presidency at the legislative action of the Federal Legislature at

its sitting in Antigua in November last in restoring the local Appeal Court, in its effort to abolish the Incumbered Estates Court, and to restore the periodical sitting of the Federal Legislature in this Presidency.

I have, &c.

The Honourable (Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,
The Acting Colonial Secretary, Acting President
&c. &c. &c.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 14.

Governor SIR C. C. LEES, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

Government House, Antigua,
MY LORD, June 24, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1884, with the Acting President's report thereon.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) C. C. LEES,
The Earl of Derby, K.G. Governor.
&c. &c.

Government Office, Tortola,
SIR, June 11, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to his Excellency the Governor the Blue Book for this Presidency for the year 1884, and to submit the following statement.

Revenue.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to 1,859*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*, which shows an increase of 151*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* over the receipts for the year 1883.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to 1,874*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, showing an increase of 147*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* over that of the year 1883. This is owing to the fact that 426*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* arrears for previous years have been paid up, as there has been no increase in the expenditure of this Presidency.

Legislation.

The following Ordinances have been passed during the year 1884:—

Ordinance No. 1.—"An Ordinance to provide for the service "of the Presidency of the Virgin Islands for the year 1884."

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Ordinance No. 2.—" An Ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 3 " of 1881, and to reimpose the duties of Treasurer upon the " President and to make provision for the appointment of a clerk " to the President of the Virgin Islands."

Ordinance No. 3.—" An Ordinance to provide for the service " of the Presidency of the Virgin Islands for the year 1885."

Ordinance No. 4.—" An Ordinance to exempt from payment " of duty on their importation into the Presidency all articles " goods and things the growth produce or manufacture or in " use in any of the Islands forming the Colony of the Leeward " Islands."

Imports and Exports.

The increase derived from import duties amounted to 722*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, and exceeds that of 1883 by 105*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* The increase in the revenue derived from this source is owing to the fact that the prolonged drought caused failure in the crops; the people were therefore forced to import a large quantity of bread stuff.

The revenue derived from export duties amounts to 499*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* for the year 1884, showing an increase of 38*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* over 1883. The trifling increase in the revenue from export duties is due to the greater demand for cattle in the market at St. Thomas.

Criminal Statistics.

During the year there were two cases for trial before the Supreme Court, one for malicious injury to property, and the other for robbery; but they were both discharged for want of sufficient evidence.

Education.

There are only four schools in this Presidency which receive Government aid, and they are of the third class.

General Remarks.

The condition of the agricultural labourers has improved during the past years, while that of the town people has been getting steadily worse; they now own the land they formally rented, and cultivate it as best they can, but owing to the want of capital the crops are small.

The people are very illiterate on many of the Out Islands where there are no schools, and it is painful to see the children growing up in a state of ignorance, but, strange to say, crime is almost unknown in this Presidency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. AUGUSTUS PICKERING.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,

&c. &c. &c.

Leeward Islands.

DOMINICA.

No. 15.

Governor Sir C. C. LEES, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

Government House, Antigua,
March 12, 1885.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1884, with the Acting President's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. LEES,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c.

REPORT on the DOMINICA BLUE BOOK for 1884.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Net revenue, 1884 - -	18,758	5	11
Expenditure, 1884 - -	18,586	17	10

1. The following incidental receipts are included in the net revenue, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Treasury balance from 1883 - -	745	9	6½
Arrears of revenue for 1883 collected in 1884 - - - -	162	12	6
Amount raised by loan - -	1,500	0	0
Total incidental receipts -	£2,408	2	0½

2. The actual revenue for 1884, therefore, derived from ordinary and fixed sources, amounted to 16,350*l.* 3*s.* 10½*d.*, and exhibited a decrease of 2,681*l.* 14*s.* 8½*d.* when compared with those receipts of the previous year 1883 which were derived from the same ordinary and fixed sources, and which in that year reached the sum total of 19,031*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*

3. The revenue for 1884 had been estimated at 18,878*l.*; therefore as between the estimated and actual revenue there was a deficiency in the latter of 2,527*l.* 16*s.* 1½*d.*

DOMINICA.

4. The falling off occurred in every branch of the revenue, but the most important deficiencies on a comparison of the receipts of 1884 with those of the previous year 1883 may be specified as follows:—

			£	s.	d.
In receipts from	"Customs"	a decrease of -	1,573	14	2
,, ,,	"licenses"	,, ,, -	123	17	5
,, ,,	"taxes"	,, ,, -	319	8	8½
,, ,,	pier dues	,, ,, -	51	17	7½
,, ,,	commutation of statute labour tax	- -	350	8	0

5. Of the decrease in "Customs" as shown above the amount of 751*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, or very nearly one half, was in "import duties" alone, and of the decrease under "taxes" a proportion amounting to 177*l.* 18*s.* 0½*d.* was in the 10 per cent. "yaws" tax.

6. The total receipts from the 10 per cent. "yaws" tax during the year 1884 amounted to 1,267*l.* 13*s.*, of which the proportion derived from "Customs" alone as regards this additional tax upon all sources of revenue was 1,092*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* in the following details:—

	£	s.	d.
On import duties - - -	733	10	2
,, export ,, - - -	91	8	6
,, tonnage ,, - - -	34	15	8
,, excise ,, - - -	232	17	9

7. This unusually large decrease of revenue is attributable to the general depression in commercial and agricultural affairs caused by the glut in the market for sugar, and indeed, most kinds of tropical produce.

8. It is only necessary to consider that out of a revenue of 16,350*l.* a portion amounting to 12,018*l.*, or, on a rough calculation, nearly three fourths of the whole, was raised from Customs duties in order to understand how the revenue must increase or decrease according to the state of trade causing the balance between revenue and expenditure to incline to the credit or debit side of the account in obedience to adventitious circumstances.

9. It is by no means certain that any irreducible minimum in the revenue was reached last year, inasmuch as the gravity of the crisis in the sugar trade was not fully appreciated until the middle of the year, and the reduction of imports took place chiefly in the last quarter.

10. Now that extreme caution has prompted to the entire or partial abandonment of many sugar estates, and to restricted dealings in every branch of trade, it may happen that the Customs duties which form so large a proportion of the revenue may suffer a further diminution, and the estimates of the present year (1885) have been framed with a view to that possibility.

Expenditure.

11. The total expenditure of the year, including the item of 461*l.* 7*s.* paid as arrears of 1883, was 18,586*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*, and the estimated expenditure was fixed at 18,475*l.*

12. Omitting the item of "arrears" of 1883, 461*l.* 7*s.*, which was, in fact, more than covered by the cash balance in hand on 1st January 1884, the actual expenditure of the year amounted to 18,125*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, and did not exceed the total estimate of the expenditure as given above.

13. With respect to the above-mentioned large arrears of 1883, a detailed statement and report has been forwarded to the Governor of the Leeward Islands.

14. As soon as it became evident that the revenue would fall short of the estimated amount all expenditure for which an immediate and pressing necessity could not be shown was postponed; as, for instance, that on the repairs of the roads, which was reduced to 1,400*l.*, a reduction of 450*l.* below the estimate.

15. However, the expenditure upon hospitals and poor house, estimated at 2,340*l.*, reached the sum total of 2,674*l.*, an excess over the estimates of 334*l.*

16. This excessive expenditure was due partly to an increase of pauperism and distress, and in some degree also to a want of proper supervision in the admission of cases to the infirmary and poor house.

17. Notwithstanding that every economy was practised, it was ascertained beyond a doubt, as the year drew to a close, that there would be a large excess of expenditure over revenue, and it became necessary to supplement the revenue by a sum of 1,500*l.*, which sum was accordingly raised by effecting a loan, the particulars respecting which will be found stated in the following paragraphs.

Public Debt.

18. An addition of 1,500*l.* to the public debt has been made by raising a loan to that amount, the debentures for which have been issued and taken up in Dominica.

19. The debentures are for 100*l.* each at 6 per cent. interest and provision for the repayment of the loan and for half-yearly payments of interest has been made by the imposition of an additional tax of 5 per cent. upon all taxes, duties, and other sources of revenue now or hereafter to be in force, excepting the stamp duties and the statute labour tax.

20. The whole proceeds of the tax are paid monthly to the credit of the special fund created under the Loan Act, which, it is hoped, will suffice not only for payment of the interest, but for redemption of the capital sum at the end of five years.

21. The total public debt now amounts to 13,400*l.* incurred under separate loans as follows:—

5,000*l.* at 6 per cent., raised in 1875 to provide funds for the construction of waterworks.

DOMINICA.

The sinking fund invested in securities by the Crown Agents now amounts to 1,336*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*

900*l.* at 6 per cent., raised in 1877, and supplementary to the above.

1,000*l.* at six per cent., raised in 1878, for the erection of a yaws hospital, and to be paid off in two years, but the time for repayment was extended by an Act of 1881 for a further period of five years.

Special provision for the repayment of this loan, as well as for all expenses attending the measures taken for the suppression of the yaws, is made by the yaws tax of 10 per cent. on all other duties and taxes, which has generally produced not less than 1,400*l.* per annum.

Had a special fund been created for the purposes of the Act as the Act directs, this loan might have been paid off together with the annual current expenses incurred under the Yaws Act, and a large balance to the credit of the yaws fund would exist at this date; but as the course adopted was that of merging the receipts from this tax in the general revenue, it must be considered that the yaws 10 per cent. tax has altogether lost its special character, and is in reality an ordinary tax raised for revenue purposes, and this loan of 1,000*l.* is a loan in aid of revenue.

That being the case, as the yaws tax of 10 per cent. expires at the end of the present year and the loan of 1,000*l.* is payable at the same time, it will be necessary to decide whether the capital sum required and the portion of the general revenue hitherto derived from the yaws tax are to be procured by a re-imposition of the same tax, or by some other modified or altogether different form of taxation.

5,000*l.* at 5 per cent., raised in 1880, for public works and other specified purposes.

The sinking fund invested by the Crown Agents amounts, at present, to 178*l.*

1,500*l.* at 6 per cent., raised in December 1884, in aid of revenue.

Legislation.

22. Eight Acts were passed and dated in 1884, viz. :—

No. 1. Trespass and Pound Act.

No. 2. Appropriation Act for 1884.

No. 3. Supplementary Appropriation Act for 1884.

No. 4. Supplementary Appropriation Act for 1883.

No. 5. An Act to extend the time for payment of the house tax for 1883.

No. 6. Piers and Wharves Act Amendment Act.

No. 7. Loan Act of 1884.

No. 8. An Act to continue the General Tax Act and the Import and Export Tax Act to 31st December 1885.

23. Four Acts in addition to those above cited were passed by the Legislative Assembly before the close of the year, but not

being dated at Antigua until the year 1885 they are numbered respectively—

No. 1, of 1885. Supplementary Appropriation Act for 1884.

No. 2, of 1885. Appropriation Act for 1885.

No. 3, of 1885. An Act to exempt the produce of other presidencies from payment of import duties on their importation into this island.

No. 4, of 1885. Trespass and Pound Act, 1884, Amendment Act.

24. The Trespass Act, No. 1, of 1884, was introduced for the purpose of simplifying the methods of obtaining redress for trespass and damage by cattle and other animals, either by impounding or bringing complaints before the magistrate, and superseded the former imperfect local enactments.

25. The Act No. 3, of 1885, was identical with other Acts under the same title passed by the several Legislatures of the Leeward Islands with a view to creating a kind of zollverein between the islands of the Leeward group.

26. Such a measure was contemplated as long ago as the time of Governor Irving's tenure of office.

27. He pointed out the necessity for taking this step in his first speech to the Federal Council, but in the absence of any important intercolonial trade to be encouraged and fostered, the subject was no doubt allowed to drop by the Federal Council until the union of St. Kitts and Nevis gave a new impetus to the question, which has finally been referred for settlement to the individual island councils.

28. The principle was frankly admitted by the Dominica Assembly as regards the exemption of Colonial produce, but in regard to articles of foreign growth or manufacture, on which duty had been already paid in the other islands, fears were expressed that the admission of such articles free of duty might prejudice the trade of Dominica, notwithstanding that the exemption was limited in the strictest terms in the Draft Act to articles which had been in use.

29. Finally the Act was passed with certain alterations intended to limit the class of foreign manufactures exempted from duty to certain specified articles, *i.e.*, to furniture and vehicles, on which duty has been paid, and of which use has already been made in the other islands.

Council and Assembly.

30. Mr. Alexander C. Potter was appointed to be a member of the Executive Council.

The Legislative Assembly, consisting under the present constitution of 14 members, elected and nominated in equal proportions for a period of five years, expired in January 1885, and no further meeting took place after the close of the session of 1884.

Imports and Exports.

31. The total value of the imports and exports for the year 1884 was as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Total value of imports -	60,535	19	3
„ exports -	47,288	0	2

32. As compared with the year 1883 the decline is about one seventh in imports and one third in exports.

33. The following is a comparative table of the value of the total imports and exports for the last four years :—

—	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
	£	£	£	£
Imports - - -	64,968	72,327	71,330	60,536
Exports - - -	55,163	65,453	63,284	47,288

34. The proportion of the imports from each of the undernamed countries was as follows:—

	£
Imports from United Kingdom - -	20,973
„ America - - -	15,153
„ Barbados - - -	16,230
„ other West Indies - -	8,279

35. With respect to the trade of this island Barbados has taken a place as an emporium of commerce similar to that formerly held by the island of St. Thomas in regard to all the West Indies.

36. The imports from Barbados consist of either English or American products, and the exact relative proportion cannot be ascertained.

37. But by examining the details of the import trade separately and distinguishing the kind of products which go to form the direct trade from America and England respectively it becomes a matter of little difficulty to fix the proportion of the Barbadian imports which ought to be assigned to either country for the purposes of a statistical report of this kind, and the following distribution may be relied upon as approximately correct, viz. :—

American products - -	12,700*l.*	16,230*l.*
English „ - -	3,530*l.*	

38. This island, therefore, imported English and foreign products in the following proportions :—

	£
Produce and manufacture of United Kingdom	24,503
„ „ America - -	27,853
„ „ other countries -	8,279

39. Of the imports valued at 8,279*l.* from West Indian countries other than Barbados a proportion equal to 5,279*l.* was received from the French island of Martinique, and the remaining 3,000*l.* in small quantities from the other islands of the West Indies, the imports consisting not of West Indian produce but of American or British goods.

40. The bulk of the imports consisted, as in former years, of common articles of food and clothing, and the following table will show the kinds most largely imported and the amount of each imported annually since 1880 :—

Comparative table showing the quantities of certain Imports annually since 1880, the quantities being expressed by value in sterling.

Imports.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
	£	£	£	£
Beef and pork - - -	1,096	1,378	1,747	1,237
Dried fish - - -	4,842	4,322	4,772	4,069
Wheaten flour - - -	8,817	7,932	7,850	9,633
Lard - - - -	757	737	692	752
Olive oil - - - -	1,741	1,904	2,021	1,300
Rice - - - -	814	445	778	1,717
Malt liquors - - -	832	870	849	405
Spirits - - - -	1,083	1,253	956	658
Wines - - - -	1,324	1,271	1,157	878
Boots and shoes - - -	1,325	1,610	1,386	1,227
Cotton and woollen goods and millinery - - -	14,643	18,917	17,674	11,420
Hardware - - -	1,840	2,646	2,238	1,645

Exports.

41. The value of the sugar export of the past year was estimated at 20,633*l.* 17*s.*, showing a decrease as compared with that of 1883 of 12,854*l.*, and whereas in 1883 more than two thirds of the crop was exported to the United Kingdom, and less than one third to the United States, these proportions were reversed in 1884, the bulk of the crop, valued at 25,661*l.* then, going to America, and a very small portion only, to the value of 958*l.*, being exported to the United Kingdom.

42. The trifling export trade in agricultural produce other than sugar still further declined with the exception of oranges, bananas, and other fruit, which is yearly increasing here as elsewhere throughout the West Indies since the regular steamship service was established with America.

DOMINICA.

43. The following comparative table will explain the character and extent of the export trade for the last four years:—

Produce exported.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
	£	£	£	£
Sugar - - - -	31,262	41,577	39,487	26,633
Molasses - - -	1,528	2,897	2,919	1,405
Lime juice - - -	6,386	5,081	4,619	3,266
Coffee - - - -	167	321	201	27
Cocoa - - - -	12,623	6,374	7,889	6,487
Fruit - - - -	128	607	1,523	1,759
Bay leaves - - -	1,162	3,090	526	305
Essential oils - - -	—	126	310	284
Firewood - - - -	500	406	469	461

Criminal Statistics.

44. The number of persons summoned before the magistrates was 2,111, of whom 942 were summarily convicted, 472 acquitted, 662 discharged for want of prosecution, and 35 committed for trial in the superior courts.

45. The decrease of crime generally during the past year is very marked, although the temptation to prædial larceny, after the hurricane of 1883 had rendered ground provisions scarce, and, in the absence of any very strong moral or physical restraints, naturally resulted in an increase of that particular class of offence.

46. Included in the above, and coming under the class of "other offences" not specified in the Blue Book Returns, are 265 cases of complaints under the Road Act, for enforcement of the Statute Labour Tax, which resulted in the conviction of 109 persons, of whom 64 were fined and 45 imprisoned in default, 156 cases being withdrawn.

47. Twenty-one persons were convicted at the criminal courts: seven for offences against the person, three for arson, and nine for other offences against property, and two for offences not classified in the Blue Book returns.

General Remarks.

48. The losses during the past year experienced through the fall in the price of sugar, and the discouragement and alarm caused thereby, affected all classes, and general attention was concentrated upon the measures proposed for the relief of the sugar industry.

49. As soon as it became evident that the Home Government had resolutely determined not to adopt any system of countervailing duties, other schemes, some of which were of a very impracticable nature, were brought into prominence.

50. A project for a political union with Canada, which had formed the topic of much discussion in the London journals and was warmly supported by the Solicitor General of the Leeward Islands at a meeting convened by him in Dominica, was favourably received and caused some temporary excitement.

51. The negotiations which were set on foot, with the assistance of the Government, for entering into a reciprocity treaty with America, on behalf of the West Indian Colonies, and which appeared to offer promise of great commercial advantages to those Colonies, were marked with keen interest, and their present failure has been productive of disappointment in a corresponding degree.

52. In the Legislative Assembly, the suggestion made by the Royal Commissioners in their report, that the island of Dominica should be separated from the Colony of the Leeward Islands and should be joined to the proposed confederation of the four Windward Islands, viz., St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, and Tobago, was submitted for the opinion of members, by instructions from the Secretary of State; and was negatived, after slight discussion, as not being likely to advance the interests of this Island.

53. In response to an invitation from the Governor to make some certain provision of revenue as a substitute for the import duties which would be sacrificed in the event of the commercial treaty with America being successfully concluded, it was unanimously resolved to guarantee the imposition of a tax of 10*s.* per hogshead on sugar as an *ad interim* measure pending the consideration of any scheme for the more equitable distribution of the required taxation which might in due time be devised.

54. As a remedy for the commercial depression an elective member introduced into the Assembly a resolution advocating the cession of Dominica to the United States.

55. Immediately after the usual preliminary notice had been given, and before any motion had been made, it unaccountably happened that the news telegrams reported, as a fact, that the Dominica Assembly had passed such a resolution.

56. This piece of news was accepted as fact, and was made the subject of comment in the New York and London journals, and even gave rise to a question in Parliament; and, so great a notoriety being thus obtained for himself and his spurious project, it cannot be doubtful that the desire and intentions of the author had, for the time, obtained their full fruition.

57. A copy of the resolution had been forwarded to the Governor of the Leeward Islands, and, after a considerable delay, occasioned by the absence of three members of the Federal Council (during which absence any questions likely to give rise to discussion are usually suspended), the resolution was moved and defeated, three of the elective members speaking and voting against it.

58. Although insignificant in itself, I have thought it advisable to notice this incident in my report in order to defend the majority of the members of the Assembly from the imputation of

DOMINICA.

disloyalty which might attach to them if the real facts were unknown; and also to protest against a whole population being thus advertised and placarded without their consent, as exhibiting a repugnance to the British connexion and a wish to repudiate it, when no signs of the existence of such feelings are apparent to any disinterested observer.

59. Neither the member who introduced nor the members who supported the resolution were able to assert that their own constituents or the general public had been previously consulted, and their conduct, from this point of view, met with special reprobation from the three elective members who opposed the motion, and who had the good sense to perceive the ridicule which was thus being cast upon the representative institutions of Dominica apart from the abstract question of the propriety, or even legality of a proposal so momentous as the transfer of allegiance to a foreign power being made in such haphazard fashion in a legally constituted Assembly.

60. But even if the supporters of the resolution had taken their constituents into confidence, it would still remain to be said that the elective members can only claim to represent the views of a very small number of the inhabitants of Dominica, as may be seen by reference to the following table, in which I have given the number of voters in each electoral district at the last general election in 1880.

Synopsis in a tabular form of the Elections of Members to the Dominican Assembly in 1880.

Electoral Division.	Number of Candidates.	Number of votes recorded.	Remarks.
Town of Roseau -	1	37	Five of these voters were candidates for other electoral divisions, and became members.
Parish of St. George	1	16	Five of these voters were candidates for other electoral divisions, and became members.
Parish of St. Luke, St. Mark.	1	15	Two of these voters were candidates for other electoral divisions, and became members.
Parish of St. Patrick (North).	1	13	——
Parish of St. Andrew	1	8	——
Parish of St. John and town.	1	13	Five of these voters were candidates for other electoral divisions, and became members.
Parishes of St. Paul, St. Joseph.	1	13	Three of these voters were candidates for other electoral divisions, and became members.
Total	7	115	Number of votes by candidates, 20.

61. The thought will naturally suggest itself that the franchise might be lowered so as to make the Assembly more truly representative, but I doubt whether any really beneficial effects would follow, and there are some valid reasons against it, although they cannot be treated at length within the limits allowed to a report of this kind.

62. Neither would any mere extension of the franchise satisfy the demands of or even be acceptable to the small but clamorous section of politicians whose aim is the restoration of the old form of legislature, and who profess indignation at the present division of legislative power between elective and nominated members in the Assembly.

63. But such a restoration, involving class supremacy, the exacerbation of animosities of race, and a narrow and bigoted spirit in the conduct of public affairs must, in the case of a small territory, such as Dominica, be now and remain for ever beyond the verge of practical political schemes, or, at least, it must so appear to any one acquainted with the manner of working of the old political machinery, now happily superseded.

64. If a preponderance for the votes of elective members as distinguished from members nominated by the Crown, is honestly sought, as a valuable privilege to be used for the public good, it is in the Council of the United Colony of the Leeward Islands, and there only, that it ought to be found.

65. In a frank acceptance of the principles sketched out in the Secretary of State's Despatch of 1st September 1884,* and in the resolution accompanying that despatch (both of which have been published in this Colony), lies the way to successful achievement of such a stroke of policy, by the creation of a single legislative chamber commanding respect by its legislative ability and freedom from local bias, and to which, therefore, the increase of independent power, comprehended in the grant of such a predominating influecne to its elective component might safely be entrusted.

66. I am happy to be able to report that the lime and other plantations have recovered to a great extent from the damage wrought by the hurricane of September 1883, and the ground provisions upon which the working class depend so largely for their subsistence are again in abundance.

67. Nevertheless, unusual distress has been felt by that class, owing to the withdrawal of capital from the sugar cultivation, and the consequent scarcity of employment for field hands on the estates.

68. Such a state of things in the rural districts would naturally be favourable to the emigration movement towards Cayenne and Venezuela, which I mentioned in my last report as having assumed much larger proportions of late years, and, accordingly, it is found to have continued unabated, and, in the present circumstances, it cannot be considered altogether a misfortune that there exists an outlet for the unemployed over familiar and well known paths.

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* Not printed.

DOMINICA.

69. As to the actual numbers and destination of the emigrants, it can only be a matter for conjecture based upon the numbers of deck passengers leaving by steam vessels, and the number of passports issued from the registrar's office during the year.

70. From information kindly supplied by the gentlemen who are agents for the "Royal Mail" and "Direct Line" companies, I find that 918 deck passengers left by the Royal Mail steamers and 32 by the "Direct Line" steamers, making a total of 950 deck passengers, and there were 171 passports issued for French ports.

71. About one fourth of the total number returned to the Island at short intervals, and of the remaining three fourths about 500 persons may be supposed to have proceeded as far as Venezuela and 100 to Cayenne.

72. Considerable sums have been forwarded from time to time by emigrants at Venezuela to their families in Dominica, and, probably, if there was any sure and easy mode of sending such remittances they would become more frequent.

73. But the mining companies pay their workmen in coin, and there is no branch of the Colonial Bank nearer than Trinidad.

74. Consequently they can only remit to their friends by taking advantage of the return of some comrade, and if he betrays his trust there is generally no remedy.

75. Fortunately, a conviction was obtained at the last circuit court against one of the men who have been guilty of this peculiarly heartless species of robbery, and he is now undergoing a sentence of two years' imprisonment.

76. By a decree of the Venezuelan Government dated 12th July 1884, passports are now required from persons arriving from the West Indian Islands, which are to be issued to them by the various consuls, and as Trinidad is the port from which the Dominican labourers seek their means of transport direct to Venezuela, and as they must now apply to the Venezuelan Consul for a passport before their departure, it might be well to inquire if the Consul would keep a registry of the emigrants, and to see if his good offices could be enlisted for the purpose of obtaining for those already at the mines a safe and inexpensive provision for the regular remittance of their savings to their families in Dominica.

77. In regard to the general prospects for the coming year it is difficult to make any other than a gloomy forecast, and it is evident that political nostrums will avail little towards the increase of material prosperity, which depends more upon the revival and the extension of the trade and agricultural industry of the Island."

(Signed) J. SPENCER CHURCHILL,
Acting President.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 16.

Governor T. KERR TO the Right Hon. the EARL of DERBY, K.G.

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
April 1, 1885.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith two copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1884, recently completed by the Colonial Secretary, on which I have the honour to make the following report:—

Taxes and Duties.

No change has been made in these since 1883.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The local revenue of 1884 was 9,187*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.*, or 903*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.* more than the estimated amount, which was 8,284*l.* The excess under the several heads was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	178	18	8
Licenses	6	16	0
Rents exclusive of land	49	2	1
Fines, forfeitures, &c	222	12	9
Land revenue	36	0	5
Postage	76	5	11
Miscellaneous receipts	107	14	11
Auction duty	7	16	11½
Sale of Crown lands	235	17	0

There was a deficiency of 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* on the estimated receipts for sale of Government property.

500*l.* was received from the Imperial Government in aid of the mail service, which brought up the total receipts for 1884 to 9,687*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.*, or 1,350*l.* 11*s.* 6¼*d.* more than those of 1883, which were, inclusive of the Imperial grant of 1,000*l.*, 8,377*l.* 0*s.* 8¼*d.*

The expenditure in 1884 was 7,807*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, or 89*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* more than the estimated amount, which was 7,718*l.*

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st December 1884, inclusive of cash in the Colonial Chest (1,344*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*) and in the hands of the Crown Agents for the Colonies (494*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*), amounted to 2,342*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

There is no Public Debt.

Public Works.

The principal public works carried on during 1884 were:—

A. The repairs of several of the Government buildings and offices, which included a new ceiling and extensive repairs to the west wing of the barracks, used as an infant school; renewal of part of the gaol flooring, rotted by damp; repairs and the addition of a small room to the pilot's cottage in the dockyard, and casual repairs of the courthouse and other buildings.

B. Building a new stone head to the jetty at the public reservoir, and securing the delivery pipe and arrangements for supplying water to shipping, the old wooden erection having become rotten and unsafe.

C. Making new stone drains in East Barrack Road, and at the back of the row of Government stone cottages (to replace the foul ditches which previously existed) and building a latrine at the Government school with a covered stone drain to the sea.

D. Widening the street leading from the stone jetty, which was too narrow for carts to pass each other, and extending the sea wall to receive the excavated earth and rubbish; also repairing some of the other principal streets in Stanley.

As there is no superintendent or foreman of works, and no public officer in the Colony competent to advise on or direct them, the entire direction and supervision in every detail was undertaken by the Governor in person.

Legislation.

Six Ordinances were passed in 1884:—

No. 1.—An Ordinance to provide for the Service of the Colony of the Falkland Islands for the year 1884.

No. 2.—An Ordinance to regulate the amount of rent to be paid by lessees of Crown lands in certain cases.

No. 3.—An Ordinance to regulate the compulsory purchase of blocks of lands under the provisions of the Land Ordinance, 1872.

No. 4.—An Ordinance to regulate the compulsory purchase of blocks of land under the provisions of the Land Ordinance, 1872. (This Ordinance was enacted in the place of No. 3, which was disallowed by Her Majesty.)

No. 5.—A Naturalization Ordinance.

No. 6.—An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Colony of the Falkland Islands for the year 1885.

Civil Establishment.

The vacancies caused by the deaths of Mr. C. De Freville Green, Colonial Secretary and Treasurer, and Mr. Arthur Bailey, Police Magistrate, were filled by the appointment on the 18th

December 1883, of Mr. E. Pakenham Brooks, to the combined offices of Colonial Secretary, Treasurer, and Police Magistrate. Mr. Brooks also fills the offices of Collector of Customs, Postmaster, Registrar, Coroner, Harbour Master, Shipping Master, Receiver of Wrecks, and Registrar of the Supreme Court. Mr. Brooks arrived in the Colony and assumed his duties on the 15th February 1884. On the 1st February 1884, L. G. King was appointed assistant teacher in the Government school, in the place of E. Biggs, who resigned.

Pensions.

The pension list was reduced on the 25th January, 1884, by the death of the Rev. Charles Bull, formerly Colonial chaplain, who was in the receipt of a pension of 133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* a year.

Population.

There were 59 births in the Colony during 1884—23 males and 36 females. There were nine marriages. The deaths registered were 32, of which number 24 were males, and eight were females, of these, however, six males died from accidents at sea and were reported to the registrar on the arrival of the vessels in which the deaths occurred.

Of the remaining 26, which really represent the deaths in the population, the causes of deaths were as follows :—

Convulsions - - - - -	4
Rupture of a pulmonary artery - -	1
Fatty degeneration of the heart - -	1
Consumption and lung disease - -	5
Tabes mesenterica - - - -	3
Angina pectoris - - -	1
Typohid fever - - - -	1
Inflammation of the brain - - -	1
Dropsy - - - - -	1
Debility - - - - -	3
Result of a fall (a Fuegian at Keppel) -	1
Accidental drowning - - -	2
Exposure and exhaustion (lost in the snow) -	1
Visitation of God - - - -	1
	26

The health of the Colony was, on the whole, good during 1884.

The following reports on the sanitary condition of the Colony have been sent in by the Colonial Surgeon (Dr. Hamilton), and the Assistant Colonial Surgeon at Darwin (Dr. Heuston).

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Report of the COLONIAL SURGEON.

Stanley, Falkland Islands,
February 19, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, on the sanitary condition of the Settlement for the year 1884.

It is satisfactory to state that we have been almost free from endemic disease, only three cases of typhoid fever (one of them unfortunately proving fatal); the average number of cases of catarrh, bronchitis, rheumatism, febrilla. The infantile diseases, varicella, herpes, porrigo, gum, &c., being below the average.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. HAMILTON, F.R.C.S.I., C.T.I.,
Colonial Surgeon.

Report of ASSISTANT COLONIAL SURGEON at DARWIN.

Darwin, Falkland Islands,
January 25, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the health of the inhabitants of the district under my care has been favourable during the year 1884.

The general character of the ailments has been slight, and they were such as naturally occur among people in their prime leading healthy lives. Two cases of scarlatina, however, occurred in the Settlement of Darwin, infecting six others, all being of moderate severity; I was unable to trace the original source of infection. In the same place two children suffered from typhoid fever, and through the courtesy of the manager of the Falkland Islands Company, some improvements in the sanitary conditions were made, which I hope will give future immunity from that disease. Two cases of consumption (pulmonary tuberculosis with tabes mesenterica) were imported from Stanley, and although the conditions are very favourable for the treatment of that disease, one death occurred; the only other death in my practice was due to cerebro-spinal inflammation following a fall from a horse in a girl suffering from exophthalmic gôitre.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. T. HEUSTON,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

It is difficult to state the exact number of the population, which fluctuates with the arrivals and departures. The number ascertained by the census taken in 1881 was 1,553, and it may be stated approximately as 1,640 at the end of 1884.

Education.

The attendance at the schools in Stanley has been regular, and the progress of the pupils both at the upper and infant schools is reported as satisfactory.

The school fee charged at the upper school is sixpence per week for each pupil. The amount paid in fees during 1884, was 66*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* The fee at the infant school, is 3*d.* per week, and the amount of fees received in 1884 was 48*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

From these fees the assistant teachers were paid, as well as the cleaning of the schools and some other expenses, besides an allowance to the schoolmaster of 30*l.* and to the mistress of the infant school of 36*l.*

It is to be regretted that there are many children in Stanley of an age to be sent to school who do not attend, and it may become necessary to consider the expediency of making school attendance compulsory as in England.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports in 1884 was 67,848*l.* In 1883 it was 52,913*l.*, and in 1882 it was 35,429*l.* As has been stated in former reports the value of the imports in any one year does not represent the actual consumption, which is probably represented by the average of the last three consecutive years, for which the figures are given, and may therefore be approximately taken as amounting to 52,000*l.* in 1884.

The value of the exports in 1884 was 101,338*l.* In 1883 it was 84,593*l.*, and in 1882 it was 76,856*l.*

The following table represents the relative value of the several articles of exports during the six years ending with 1884:—

——	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wool - - -	55,440	68,327	70,927	57,655	68,313	74,652
Tallow - - -	5,940	6,760	4,519	10,120	8,735	13,314
Sheepskins - -	1,940	1,872	3,266	3,893	4,345	5,686
Hides - - -	5,020	7,875	8,206	4,819	2,775	4,242
Old metal and junk -	90	120	—	339	306	196
Seal skins - -	1,400	2,100	968	—	—	191
Seal oil - - -	1,200	1,100	—	—	—	125
Hair, bones, and bone ash	10	18	33	20	118	62
Live sheep - -	—	—	—	—	*2,400	2,720
Live horses - -	—	—	—	—	—	150

* The value of live sheep exported in 1883 was by an oversight omitted from the table of exports in the Blue Book for that year. The total value of exports in 1883 should have been 86,993, instead of 84,593*l.*, the amount erroneously returned.

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Shipping.

Twenty-three sailing vessels arrived in the Colony in 1884, the aggregate tonnage of which was 16,747, and the crews of which numbered 354.

In 1883 there were also 23 arrivals, their aggregate tonnage being 14,238, and their crews numbering 304.

Of the arrivals in 1884 seven were engaged in the trade of the Colony, eleven put into Stanley to repair damages sustained during the storms which are of frequent occurrence in this region, two were in want of medical aid, two were in want of water and provisions, and one to restow her cargo which had shifted. Of the disabled ships there were eight British, two German, and one Italian. They were all repaired and proceeded on their respective voyages.

The monthly mail service was regularly performed by the steam ships of the Kosmos Company, according to the conditions of their contract, and an extra steamer was sent specially for cargo (wool). The Kosmos Company's coasting steamer "Malvinas," which met with an accident in 1883, requiring her to be sent to Monte Video for repairs, again broke down in 1884, and had to be towed to Monte Video by one of the other steam ships of the Company, that her machinery might be repaired; she returned to Stanley on 4th November after an absence of four months, and soon after sailed for the Straits of Magellan with a cargo of sheep from the West Falkland Island; the "Malvinas" had not returned to the Colony at the end of the year, having been engaged by the Chilian authorities at Punta Arenas to render assistance to a Chilian ship-of-war which was stranded in Smyth's channel. The Dutch ship-of-war "Tromp" visited Stanley in January 1884, and after an interchange of courtesies and hospitalities with the Governor and colonists sailed for the Cape of Good Hope.

Her Majesty's ships "Amethyst," "Algerine," and "Ready," of the South East Coast of America Squadron, visited the Colony during the "close season" for the protection of the fisheries. Two vessels were wrecked on the coasts of the Colony during the year: the "Rotomahana" of Liverpool, a fine ship of 1,580 tons, while on a voyage from Liverpool to Wilmington, with a cargo of coal and salt, was totally lost in Falkland Sound on 19th August 1884. The cargo ignited, the crew were nearly suffocated by the poisonous vapour proceeding from the burning coal and salt, the compasses were deranged by heated iron, and while endeavouring to steer for Port Stanley, the vessel during a snow squall struck on the Elephant Cays in Falkland Sound. The crew were rescued and brought to Stanley.

The "Menai Straits," of Carnarvon, on a voyage from Fleetwood to Antofagasta with a cargo of coal, was totally lost at the entrance of Port Salvador in East Falkland on the 15th of November; on the 13th the cargo was discovered to be on fire, and whilst endeavouring to make the port of Stanley, the vessel drifted

during a fog to the entrance of Port Salvador, where she was anchored, but the fire burst out and the vessel was consumed; the crew were saved and brought to Port Stanley.

The crew of the "W. H. Harkness," of Swansea, were brought to Stanley by the American ship "Edmund Phinney," which saved them when the "W. H. Harkness" foundered off Cape Horn.

Criminal Statistics.

There were no criminal cases in the Supreme Court in 1884.

Seventy-nine persons were summarily convicted in the Police Magistrates' Court. Of these, 28 were merchant seamen for refusing to work on board their ships while in harbour, four for breaches of the revenue laws, and four for having possession of goods belonging to a wrecked vessel; the remaining 43 were chiefly cases of drunkenness and offences arising from drunken brawls.

Thirty-five persons were peremptorily imprisoned. One was imprisoned in lieu of fine, thirty-five were fined, and eight were bound over with or without sureties.

General.

The prosperous condition of the Colony in 1884 is evidenced by the value of the exports, which exceeded 101,000*l.*, being 13,000*l.* more than the average of the five years ending 1884, which was 88,334*l.* The average for the preceding five years, ending in 1879, was 51,676*l.*, but the prosperity of the colonists is actually greater than these figures indicate, as the outlay and cost of production is less now than in former years, and the profits to the producer are consequently greater.

The mild winter of 1883, and the generally favourable weather throughout that year, contributed materially to the large increase in the value of the exports of 1884, but I fear that the unusually severe winter of 1884, with the wet, cold, and stormy summer which followed, will injuriously affect the prospects of the year which has now begun.

The winter of 1884 was the most severe which has been experienced for many years. The snow lay for more than five weeks in July and August, and many sheep, cattle, and horses perished. Even the wild geese were found dead in great numbers. A shepherd who left Stanley on horseback to return to his station near Darwin on the 22nd of July perished in the snow, and his body was not found until the 29th of August, when the snow melted.

The actual loss of sheep and cattle during the winter has not yet been ascertained, but a loss quite as serious, if not more so, has been sustained during the shearing and dipping season. The sheep had suffered so much from the severity of the winter and starvation during the period when the pasturage was covered with

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snow that many of them were unable to withstand the shock and exposure of shearing and dipping, and the subsequent mortality has been very great.

Notwithstanding these losses, the increase in the flocks all over the Colony has been so great that there has been no check to the exportation of sheep to the Chilian territory on the shores of the Straits of Magellan, where sheep farming has been recently introduced; 6,800 sheep were thus exported in 1884, and there is every probability of the continuance of this export until the demand is fully supplied.

The visit of Her Majesty's ships during the "close season" of the fisheries has benefitted the Colony, not only by the protection which is given against any attempt to infringe the law, but by the considerable sums of money which are spent in Stanley during these visits. The crews of the ships invariably behave well and are on very friendly terms with the townspeople.

The finances of the Colony are in a very satisfactory condition, and no further aid is required from the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. KERR,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA.

No. 17.

Governor T. L. GALLWEY, R.E., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

MY LORD, Bermuda, March 26, 1885.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the annual Blue Book of this Colony, accompanied by the report of Mr. Cavendish Boyle, the Colonial Secretary, thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for 1884.

Finance.

1. The revenue raised during the year amounted to 28,769*l.* against an expenditure of 29,827*l.* The financial condition of the Colony at the end of 1884 was fairly good, and the actual revenue exceeded the estimates, whilst several items of general expenditure showed a decrease. A sum of 1,024*l.* was applied in reduction of the debt, so that nearly the whole of the excess in expenditure over revenue arose from this repayment of money due by the Colonial Treasury. In dealing with the assets and liabilities it is very difficult to arrive at an accurate balance sheet up to the 31st of December, owing to the fact that there are practically two financial years; the one extending from the 1st of April to the 31st of March and the other from the 1st of July to the 30th June. It has often been suggested that the keeping of the public accounts would be simplified, and much labour saved, by treating the first-mentioned period as the financial year, but under the present arrangement of voting the annual supplies from the 1st of July, such a change is impossible, and only an approximate balance can be shown in this report.

2. A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure for the years 1883 and 1884 gives the following results:—

Receipts.

	£
1883 - - - - -	28,564
1884 - - - - -	28,769

Expenditure.

	£
1883 - - - - -	31,056
1884 - - - - -	29,827

This is satisfactory, for the figures show that the ordinary expenditure has not increased whilst the revenue returns have improved in spite of a bad harvest and considerable agricultural depression.

In 1883 2,500*l.* was paid off the public debt, leaving a balance for actual expenditure of 28,556*l.*, whilst in 1884 1,024*l.* was paid off the Colonial liabilities, leaving an expenditure of 28,803*l.* Amongst the items of public expenditure during the past year 800*l.* for the new compilation of the laws may be mentioned as not likely to recur for some time to come, so that it may safely be assumed that the ordinary revenue proved sufficient for the ordinary service of the Government and left a margin for works of permanent public utility.

3. The sum of 1,024*l.*, as above stated, was employed to reduce the debt of the Colony; of this amount 824*l.* was paid to the trustees of Devonshire College for land and tenements purchased several years ago for a Lunatic Asylum.

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This amount had remained unpaid, owing to the fact that the trustees preferred to leave it in the Treasury, but as it was thought advisable to discharge the liability it was included in the Government estimates submitted to the Legislature at the commencement of the session, and paid to the trustees during the past summer.

The debt of the Colony amounted at the end of the year to 5,784*l.*, that is 500*l.* more than at the same time in 1883. The difference is accounted for as follows: the amount due to the trustees of Devonshire College was never included in the returns of the actual debt, whilst the amount due on Savings Bank deposits was reduced by 200*l.* and the debt increased by 500*l.*, raised on debentures under the Act of 1882 for the purposes of a New Government House.

The debt is comprised as follows: 3,900*l.* balance due on Causeway debentures, which bear an average rate of 4 per cent., on Savings Bank deposits 1,894*l.* at 2½ per cent., and 500*l.* for Government House debentures which pay 4⅞ per cent., and it is satisfactory to observe that the first two items, namely, the Causeway and Savings Bank loans have been reduced from nearly 20,000*l.* and 16,000*l.* respectively to their present small amounts.

4. The revenue and expenditure may be tabulated as under:—

Revenue.

——	Customs.	Other receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£
Revenue - - -	24,304	4,465	28,769

Expenditure.

——	Salaries.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£
Expenditure - - -	9,638	20,118	29,827

The customs return shows an increase of 202*l.*, and other receipts of 3*l.* only on last year's figures.

There is an increase in the salaries account of 230*l.*, caused by the pay of one or two of the civil officers having been raised during the preceding year. Miscellaneous expenditure shows a decrease of 1,460*l.*, being nearly the difference between the repayments of debt in the two years 1883 and 1884.

5. The Receiver General's comparative tables give the following results with reference to the revenue:—

Ad valorem duty in 1884, an increase of 911*l.*; cigars a decrease of 41*l.*; malt liquor a decrease of 151*l.*; oxen, cows, &c., an increase of 62*l.*; rum, a decrease of 327*l.*; spirits, a decrease of 313*l.*; wine a decrease of 93*l.*; and landing tax, an increase of 159*l.* This last mentioned item is a new one; the annual Supply and Appropriation Act of 1884 provided that 6*d.* per package should be paid on all imported spirits, whether entered for conumption or landed for storage. The tax was levied in view of the large quantities of imported spirits sent hither from the United States of America, and to meet the extra expenditure entailed on the revenue department in protecting the interest of the public.

The postal revenue of 1884 shows an increase of 196*l.*; and under the heading of "reimbursements" 494*l.* was paid into the Treasury against 289*l.* in the previous year.

In dealing with the expenditure tables, salaries as above mentioned show an increase of 230*l.*; drawback of duty a decrease of 67*l.*; reduction of debt 1,476*l.* An increase of 178*l.* in the cost of gaols and of 361*l.* in the police force is given, the latter being caused by the employment of extra constables. The expenditure on roads was less than in 1883 by 190*l.*; on registration of births, &c. 151*l.* was saved, whilst on public works an increased expenditure is shown amounting to 414*l.*, which arises from the works in progress for the New Government House. The total increase in receipts in 1884 being 205*l.*, and the decrease in expenditure 1,229*l.*

A sum of 4,734*l.* remained in the hands of the Receiver General at the end of the year, and there was invested in consols for the purpose of a new gaol an amount of 5,800*l.*

Local Revenue.

66. The local returns of revenue and expenditure are as follows:—

Revenue.

	£
Parochial - - - -	1,821
Corporation of Hamilton - -	3,341
Corporation of St. George - -	604

Expenditure.

Parochial - - - -	1,607
Corporation of Hamilton - -	3,740
Corporation of St. George - -	566

7. The Colonial revenue raised shows an average rate per head of 1*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* on the estimated total of civilian residents in the islands.

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The Imperial forces stationed in the command and the numerous strangers who visit the Islands during the winter months are, however, not included in this estimate of the population, and as none of these persons are exempt from payment of duty on articles imported for their own use, the rate becomes considerably reduced, and it is doubtful whether there is any increase on the sum stated in 1881 as being the average per head contributed by the civilian population.

The local rates are equally light, and perhaps no other of Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions can be found so lightly taxed as Bermuda.

8. The return of Imperial expenditure gives the following figures:—

	£
Governor's salary - - -	2,199
Military establishment - - -	103,626
	105,825

The annual expenditure on the naval establishments and war ships on the station is not given.

Legislation.

10. The Legislature met on the 26th of May, was prorogued on the 12th of December, and a short session was held between the 17th and 23rd days of the latter month.

The greater part of both sessions was taken up in continuing Acts which had proved useful, but which owing to the system adopted by the Representative branch of the Legislature contained duration clauses. Out of a total of 22 measures no less than ten were simple continuations of existing laws, two were continuing and amending measures, five were enactments dealing with subjects not already provided for in the statute book, two were confirmations of laws; two were amendments of Acts, and the total is made up by the Annual Supply and Appropriation Act.

11. The most important of the new laws was No. 12 entitled "An Act to restrict the manufacture or importation of specially "dangerous explosives."

This was based on the Imperial statute 38 & 39 Vict. c. 17, the Explosive Substances Act, 1875, and "confers great, but not "unnecessary powers on the Executive Government, in dealing "with the class of crimes and criminals at which it is aimed and "against which on several occasions during the last few years warn-"ings have been received that it was necessary to be on our guard."

"The Legislature with singular readiness and unanimity acceded "to the proposal to confer extraordinary powers on the Government "to meet these new dangers, and it is probable that no measure of

" equal importance ever passed the Bermuda Legislature with so " little opposition or even comment as this."*

12. A very complete measure was introduced by the Attorney General to amend and simplify the complicated laws relating to registration for election purposes; the House of Assembly rejected this measure which Mr. Gray had drawn with great labour and care.

The Assembly substituted a Bill to continue the old Acts with one or two new provisions taken from Mr. Gray's Bill, the result being an unsatisfactory Act, but one which it was necessary to pass to avoid considerable difficulty.

13. Owing to the embarrassing practice, referred to above, of giving short duration clauses to Acts, it became necessary to continue the Revenue Collection Act of 1882, which would have expired on the 31st December 1884, and the sole product of the second session of the Legislature is a simple measure of three lines prolonging the duration of that most necessary law. During the first session of 1884, a Bill was introduced having that object in view, with the addition of certain important changes rendered necessary in he Revenue laws by the introduction of large quantities of uncustomed spirits, the product of the United States, and which have been driven out of that country in consequence of the home market being largely overstocked, and the stringency of the American Customs law which does not allow the spirits to remain in bond for more than two years.

14. The unsatisfactory state of things with regard to our existing laws was pressed by the Government on the attention of the Legislature at the commencement of the session. It was pointed out that the revenue staff of the Colony was quite insufficient to gauge or test the spirits before they were warehoused: the bonds against fraud required by the law were in treble the value of the goods, and represented an amount out of comparison with the means of the bondsmen, and it being impossible to carry out the gauging and testing the revenue department was unable to prove that the conditions of the bonds had not been broken. An increase was asked for in the staff, or, if that was impracticable, relief for the department from its legal obligations with regard to gauging and testing, which it was physically unable to carry out.

15. The Assembly chose the latter alternative, and then arose the greatest divergence of opinion representing largely opposed interests with regard to the extension of warehousing privileges; insomuch that the Assembly and the Council failed to agree, and the Bill was lost. In this loss was included the clause continuing the Act of 1882, and it became necessary, at considerable public inconvenience, to hold a second session at a very late period of the year, in order to prolong the provisions of an Act which ought originally to have been passed for a number of years, and perhaps without any duration clause at all.

* Report of Mr. S. Brownlow Gray, Attorney General.

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16. The remaining Legislative work of the year calls for no further remarks in this report.

Civil Establishments.

17. The Civil Service of the Colony shows but little change during the year. Mr. Edwin Jones resigned his appointment of revenue officer at the port of Hamilton, and was succeeded by Mr. Cecil Tucker. The senior member of Council, Mr. A. J. Musson, after many years of loyal labour in the service of the Government, was compelled to resign his seat from ill health and advanced age. His place was not filled up, as the Council already contained its full complement of Members.

Population and Public Health.

18. According to the Registrar General's returns the estimated civilian population of the Islands was 14,888, 5,957 white, and 8,931 coloured persons, being an increase of 221 on last year's estimate.

The number of deaths registered was slightly above the decennial average, the total being 355 against an average for the 10 years of 339 · 4.

19. The health of the Colony was fairly good, and but for the number of deaths occurring amongst the military from enteric fever during the year the returns on this head would have been more than usually satisfactory.

20. The report notices an improvement in the decrease of natural born children; the excess of births over deaths was 221. The principal medical officer reports that the health of the Imperial troops was fairly good; the average strength of the garrison was 1,551, 16 deaths. Average number of women 108, 4 deaths, and of children 195, 8 deaths.

21. The general health of the navy was reported as good (corrected). Strength 880, exclusive of women and children, five deaths; the approximate strength of women and children was 258; no deaths amongst the women, three amongst the children.

22. The returns show that the mean maximum temperature was 80 · 6, mean minimum 72 · 2. Average rainfall per month 4 · 04 inches, highest in November 8 · 77, lowest in June 2 · 38. The mean velocity of the wind by Robinson's anemometer was, miles, 129 · 04.

Imports and Exports.

23. The total value of imports was 283,440*l.* and of exports 88,622*l.*, subdivided as under:—

Imports from

	£
United Kingdom - - -	75,416
British Colonies - - -	36,701
Foreign countries - - -	171,156

Exports to

	£
United Kingdom - - -	2,557
British Colonies - - -	3,393
Foreign countries - - -	82,672

24. The imports show an increase of 45,000*l.* and the exports a decrease of 2,500*l.* on last year's returns.

Although the revenue benefits by the enlarged importation of foreign goods, it is not satisfactory to observe that whilst these figures increased there should be a falling off in the value of exported produce; 1884 was undoubtedly a bad year for agriculture. The prices obtained for early vegetables shipped to the New York market, were very low, and the planters and farmers fared badly. The land under cultivation is very fertile, but it is a matter of considerable doubt whether mistakes are not being made by forcing therefrom year after year crops of onions, potatoes, and tomatoes, which are raised in such enormous quantities on the belief that the prices of past years will be upheld, and that such a system of farming can continue without prejudice to the soil for an indefinite time.

Gaols and Prisoners.

25. There were 189 persons committed to the two prisons, Hamilton and St. George's, during the year, of which two were for debt, 81 for safe custody, and 106 for the purposes of penal imprisonment. 29 were sentenced to over one year and less than five years' detention, three for more than three months and less than a year, and 74 for three months or less. The daily average in prison was 28; the number of admissions to hospital was 37, and the daily average on the sick list was one. There were no deaths.

The total cost of the two prisons including officers' salaries was 1,604*l.* The prisoners are employed in breaking stone, which is purchased by the Colony and issued for use on the roads.

Criminal Statistics.

26. The total number of offences reported to the police and magistrates was 361, or five less than last year, of this total 101 were for offences against the person, 27 for prædial larceny, 33 for offences against property, and 200 for other offences. 87 cases were dismissed on their merits, 191 persons were summarily convicted, 63 were discharged for want of prosecution, and 20 were committed for trial in the superior courts. Out of the latter number five were acquitted and one remains yet untried; of the 14 convictions one was for rape, four for unnatural crimes, eight for offences against property, and one was returned under the head of miscellaneous offences.

The comparative table shows that there were 460 offences reported in 1881, 338 in 1882, 366 in 1883, and 361 as above stated in 1884.

Education.

27. 1,107*l.* was expended during the year on the various schools which receive Government aid, and these grants were supplemented by a total of 929*l.* returned under the head of voluntary contributions. The Schools Acts were renewed during the session, and the sum of 1,400*l.* is annually available and at the disposal of the Board of Education until the end of 1890. The schools are all for day scholars, and are open for five days in the week and for five hours each day. There is an inspector whose duty it is to visit each school frequently, and to ascertain once in each quarter the progress made by the scholars.

Public Institutions.

28. The only institution returnable under this head is the Lunatic Asylum, supported by the Colony. Here the daily average of patients was 31, the number admitted during the year was five, three males and two females. Four were discharged cured, and two died. The total cost of the establishment was 1,382*l.*, and the approximate cost per patient was 43*l.* 19*s.*

The additional strong rooms commenced during the latter months of 1883, were completed in 1884, and afford accommodation for violent and refractory patients of whom I regret to say there are one or two.

Shipping.

29. The usual table of shipping is given as under—

Vessels entered.	No.	Tonnage.	Vessels cleared.	No.	Tonnage.
British - -	139	104,160	British - -	140	104,035
American - -	27	7,959	American - -	28	7,692
Other countries -	16	9,903	Other countries -	15	7,880
Total -	182	122,022	Total - -	183	119,507

General.

30. On the 27th of January 1884 the principal church of the Colony was destroyed by fire, and there is unfortunately little doubt left that it was the deliberate and malicious work of an incendiary. Trinity church, situated in Hamilton, formed a noteworthy landmark, and had been built at a very heavy cost, no small amount of time and labour having been spent on its erection and decoration. The blow was felt by the whole community, and though liberal rewards were offered, and every endeavour made to bring the culprit to justice, he has hitherto escaped detection. A subscription list for rebuilding the church was at once opened

and liberal responses were given to the appeals made by the clergy; but it will be many years before the work can be completed, and in spite of large and generous donations only two thirds of the requisite funds are as yet in hand.

31. The influx of visitors from the neighbouring continent was considerable during the winter months, and the hotels and lodging houses were crowded. A company was formed and incorporated to provide further accommodation, and during the summer a large and commodious hotel was built on the shores of Hamilton harbour, the shareholders being nearly all residents or connected with the Colony. Whilst no doubt the visitors bring a certain amount of profit to the mercantile portion of the community, it is doubtful whether their presence in increased numbers will not tend to raise the price of food, all of which or nearly all of which must be imported, and to increase the difficulty in living experienced by persons with fixed incomes in this already very expensive Colony.

32. I am indebted to one of the leading merchants here, Mr. William Cox of Hamilton, for a table giving the average rate of wages earned and the average prices of food during the year. By this it will be seen that the ordinary labourer and skilled mechanic earns a very high payment, labouring men 3*s.* 6*d.*, women 2*s.* 6*d.* per day, servants, men who are fed, 45*l.* per annum, women from 13*l.* 10*s.* to 16*l.* 10*s.*, carpenters, caulkers, and masons from 6*s.* to 10*s.* per day.

Mr. Cox remarks that "there was a decrease in the prices "current for flour and sugar.

"The wages of labour have been thoroughly sustained, and "the impetus given by speculation to building may be reported on "as furnishing work for all honest workmen during the entire "year."

"There can be no doubt that the increased demand for labour "has arisen more from speculation on the probable needs of "American tourists and invalids than from absolute need, and the "problem as to the return of interest is for 1885 to solve."

"The greater admixture of people from a rich and extravagant "country cannot be regarded as an unmixed good, as by example "and fashion as well as by creating an increased demand for "domestic labour the cost of living to colonists will increase and "the strain on fixed incomes will become greater."

33. As I have before observed the agricultural returns were unsatisfactory, but it is to be hoped with care and attention the Colony may still be able to raise produce in sufficient quantities and of such quality as will command a remunerative sale in the neighbouring markets, and that the resident inhabitants may be able to earn from the soil and from their trades at least a livelihood in the islands of their birth or adoption.

(Signed) CAVENDISH BOYLE,
Colonial Secretary.

Hamilton,
Bermuda, 10th March 1885.

MALTA.

MALTA.

No. 18.

Governor Sir J. L. A. SIMMONS, G.C.B., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

MY LORD, Palace, Valletta, May 20, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1884, to which I append, for your Lordship's information, a report by Mr. Hely Hutchinson, Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. The Earl of Derby, &c. &c.

(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS, Governor.

Chief Secretary's Office, Malta, May 20, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following report on the Blue Book for 1884:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
1. The cash balance on 1st January 1884 was	27,558	7	0½
The revenue proper for 1884, including 10,000*l.* received from the Imperial Treasury on account of the refugees from Egypt, was - - - -	212,569	2	2
Other receipts, including deposits, refunds of advances, &c. - - - -	84,494	6	3
Total - - -	324,621	15	5½

	£	s.	d.			
The expenditure proper for 1884 was - -	209,795	0	11			
Other disbursements -	66,109	19	5			
				275,905	0	4
Leaving a cash balance on 31st December 1884 of - - - - -				48,716	15	1½

Revenue.

—	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1883 - - -	133,347 3 10	72,219 4 10	205,566 8 8
1884 - - -	132,850 5 10	79,718 16 4	212,569 2 2
Increase - -	—	7,499 11 6	7,002 13 6
Decrease - -	496 18 10	—	

Expenditure.

—	Salaries.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1883 - - -	81,446 5 0	102,291 11 0	183,737 16 0
1884 - - -	80,605 13 6	129,189 7 5	209,795 0 11
Increase - -		26,897 16 5	26,057 4 11
Decrease - -	840 11 6	—	—

	£	s.	d.
3. The cash balance on the 31st December 1884 was - - - -	48,716	15	1½
Add balance on Investment Account -	27,309	8	4¾
Advances repayable - - -	3,326	11	4
Total surplus on 31st December 1884	79,352	14	10¼

Public Debt.

4. Malta has no public debt; but, in addition to certain burthens on property taken over from the grand masters, and other property of pious foundations administered by Government, amounting on an average to 1,723*l.* a year, the Island pays interest of 2½ per cent. on a sum of 78,368*l.* 5*s.* 2¾*d.*, representing money invested in the "Massa Frumentaria," and 2 per cent. on

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a capital of 7,083*l.* 16*s.* 1½*d.* originally raised for carrying on the pawning transactions in the "Monte di Pietà."

Court deposits and savings bank deposits are covered by investments, and interest at the rate of 2 per cent. is paid on the latter on capitals of 100*l.* and under.

Legislation.

5. The Council of Government met for the first time in 1884 on the 19th November.

The following legislation was effected during the year:—

Ordinance No. 1.—"To amend Ordinance No. XI. of 1871."

Ordinance No. 2.—"To establish a Post Office."

Political Franchise.

6. The number of registered electors at the time of the election of 1884 was in Malta 8,823, of whom about 4,500 are illiterate, and 1,722 for Gozo and Comino, of whom about 1,500 are illiterate.

In Malta 3,818 voters exercised the franchise, of whom 419 were illiterate.

In Gozo 271 voters exercised the franchise, of whom none were illiterate.

Civil Establishm

7. His Excellency Sir Arthur Borton, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., retired from the administration of the Government on the 7th June 1884, on the expiration of his term of office.

Sir J. L. A. Simmons, G.C.B., arrived in Malta on the 13th June, and assumed the administration of the Government. During the interval the Government was administered by Major-General C. T. Daniell, commanding Her Majesty's troops in these Islands.

The Chief Secretary to Government, the Hon. W. Hely Hutchinson, C.M.G., was appointed Lieutenant-Governor by Commission under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet on the 20th June 1884.

Colonel Attilis Sceberras, Superintendent of Police, died on the 7th April 1884, and Captain Richard Casolani, R.M.F.A., was appointed to succeed him.

Population.

8. The population in 1883 was estimated at 154,256 persons
The births during 1884 were - 5,979
The deaths „ „ „ - 3,560

Increase 2,419 „

Showing an estimated population on 31st December 1884 of - - - 156,675 „

Savings Banks.

9. The amount of deposits in the savings banks was as follows:—

——	1884.	Depositors.	1883.	Depositors.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
In Malta - -	307,555 6 4¾	4,355	287,708 15 0¾	4,149
In Gozo - -	17,743 8 0¼	354	15,906 2 6	320
Total -	325,298 14 5	4,709	303,614 17 6¾	4,469

showing an increase of 21,683*l.* 16*s.* 10¼*d.*, and an average of 69*l.* per depositor, against 67*l.* in 1883.

Education.

10. The following is a list of the Government educational establishments:—

——	1884.	1883.	Scholars.
The University, attended by - -	49	57	—
The Lyceum, attended by - -	474	445	—
Two Secondary Schools, attended by -	125	129	—
Seventy-five Primary Schools, attended by - - - - -	8,240	8,503	—
Eight Infant Schools, attended by -	929	954	—
Total - - -	9,817	10,088	—

showing a decrease of 271 in the number of scholars. This decrease may be attributed to the prevalence of diphtheria during the year, which reduced the attendance at the primary and infant schools.

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IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

	£		£	
11. The following is the value of cargoes imported and actually landed at this port -	634,744	against	864,390	in 1883.
Value of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same bottoms - -	12,709,045	„	21,886,122	„
	13,343,789	„	22,750,512	„
viz. :—				
From the United Kingdom - -	122,899	„	113,833	„
From the British Colonies - -	1,772,384	„	4,673,053	„
From H.M. Ships in port - -	1,582	„	1,059	„
From Foreign Countries	11,446,924	„	17,962,567	„
	13,343,789		22,750,512	„
showing a decrease of -	9,406,723			

	£		£	
12. The value of exports from portions of cargoes which were landed at this port -	68,049	against	80,570	in 1883.
Value of exports of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same bottoms -	12,840,443	„	21,890,108	„
	12,908,492	„	21,970,678	„
viz. :—				
To the United Kingdom	3,120,319	against	8,147,544	„
„ British Colonies -	3,574,645	„	4,275,982	„
„ H.M. Ships -	6,738	„	6,753	„
„ Foreign Countries -	6,206,790	„	9,540,399	„
	12,908,492		21,970,678	

showing a decrease of 9,062*l*,186*l*.

The value of local agricultural produce exported in 1884 was 77,825*l*., against 50,904*l*. in 1883, showing an increase of 26,921*l*.

The decrease in imports and exports is principally due to quarantine, which was in force during the summer and autumn months.

Shipping.

13. The shipping movement in the port during the last two years is shown in the following return :—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1883 - -	4,230	4,667,390	1,582	152,066
1884 - -	3,851	4,383,756	1,530	133,742
Decrease - -	379	283,634	52	18,324

The decrease in the number of arrivals is due to quarantine.

Criminal Statistics.

14. The following is a statement of offences punishable under the local laws, showing the number of accusations and of persons brought before the courts by the police in 1884 :—

Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	Acquitted.	Condemned.
CRIMINAL LAWS.				
Crimes against public tranquillity - -	17	18	3	15
„ affecting public credit - -	6	6	1	5
„ „ the good order of families	12	17	5	12
„ against the person - - -	383	481	88	393
„ „ property - -	277	410	103	307
Contempt of court - - - -	3	3	—	3
CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Affecting public order - - -	2,199	3,725	443	3,282
Against the person - - - -	668	967	137	830
„ property - - -	79	145	37	108
OTHER CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Under special Ordinances - - -	464	782	52	730
POLICE LAWS.				
Contraventions - - - -	4,095	6,992	259	6,733
Total - -	8,203	13,546	1,128	12,418

viz. :—

	No.
Maltese - - - - - -	12,942
English - - - - - -	104
Foreign - - - - - -	500
	13,546

The number of persons committed in 1884 was as follows:—

Men - - - -	3,034
Women - - - -	284
Boys - - - -	1,045
Girls - - - -	5
	4,368

General Observations.

During the year 1884 employment for the labouring classes was abundant, and wages maintained their level. Had it not been for the quarantine, which interfered seriously with the profits of the boatmen, cabdrivers, shopkeepers, and hotel keepers, and to a certain extent with those of the wharf labourers, besides hampering general commerce, the year would have been, so far as the working and trading classes are concerned, one of the most prosperous on record.

The year has witnessed the commencement of the construction of the improved approach to Valletta by way of the "Marina Gate," a work which has been much desired for many years, and will, when completed, prove of great convenience to the commerce of the place, as well as to the visitors and inhabitants generally. A dredge has also been purchased at a cost of 8,000*l.*, and is now employed in deepening the harbours and creeks, a work which has long been desired, both on commercial and sanitary grounds, but postponed for want of funds. The Government also obtained, at the close of 1883, the services of Mr. Osbert Chadwick, A.M.I.C.E., to report on the state of the water supply, and Mr. Chadwick's proposals, which embody a thorough reform in both the quality and quantity of the supply, and an experimental irrigation scheme, and involve an expenditure, to be spread over several years, of between 50,000*l.* and 60,000*l.*, have been accepted by the Council of Government and are now in course of being carried out.

The remodelling of the drainage of Valletta, and the three cities, which has been proceeding under the able superintendence of Captain Tressider, R.E., during the last eight years, will be completed in the course of June 1885.

By the end of 1886 the distributory system of the water supply in Valetta will have been remodelled, and negotiations are about to be opened between the Government and the "Malta and Mediterranean Gas Company," with the view of improving the quality and reducing the price of gas supplied to private consumers, as well as to the public, without involving any charge on the Treasury.

A scheme has been submitted to the Council for the construction of a new ospizio, to replace the present ospizio and Hospital of Incurables which have for many years been condemned on sanitary grounds, and several other useful public works are under consideration.

The available balance at the close of 1884 was nearly 80,000*l.*, and for the last five years the ordinary revenue has exceeded the ordinary expenditure of Government by 15,000*l.* on an average. If necessary, a loan can be raised to cover the cost of the remunerative works, and perhaps of some of the other works. Such a step would have to receive the concurrence of the Council, and would not be undertaken except after due consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER HELY HUTCHINSON,
Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

To His Excellency
Sir J. L. A. Simmonds, G.C.B.,
Governor of Malta,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

No. 19.

ADMINISTRATOR LIEUT.-COLONEL BLUNT, R.E., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

MY LORD, St. Helena, June 13, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book Returns for 1884.

2. The revenue, which was estimated at 11,054*l.*, amounted to 10,421*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, including a grant in aid from the Imperial treasury of 450*l.*, and the expenditure, estimated at 11,492*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, amounted to 10,806*l.* 14*s.* 1½*d.*

3. The decrease of 632*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* in the estimated receipts arose from a falling off in the receipts for wharfage, but few vessels having discharged cargo for repairs, and also from the reduction in the rates for postage. The yearly decrease in the number of sailing ships employed in the carrying trade, and those that call being better supplied with stores, together with the fact that there is no export trade from this island, leads to the conclusion that the future revenue from this Colony is not likely to reach much over 9,000*l.* to 9,500*l.* per annum.

4. The reduction of 685*l.* 11*s.* 8½*d.* in the estimated expenditure has been caused by the reduction made in the fixed establishments.

5. The public debt has been reduced to 6,750*l.*, and I anticipate that there will be no difficulty in continuing the yearly repayments of 1,000*l.* per annum until this debt is liquidated.

ST. HELENA.

6. On the 19th March the late Governor, Hudson R. Janisch, Esq. died, and Lieut.-Colonel Grant Blunt, R.E., the officer commanding the troops, assumed the administration of the Government from that date. Up to that date Lieut.-Colonel Grant Blunt performed the duties of Colonial Engineer, with a salary of 200*l.* per annum, but these duties are now performed by this officer, combined with those of Officer administering the Government, on a salary of 450*l.* per annum.

7. In the secretariat, B. N. C. Knipe, Esq., was dismissed from the 16th July, 1884, and G. W. Janisch, Esq., temporarily performed the duties of Assistant Colonial Secretary, until he was relieved by G. A. Banbury, Esq., 28th November 1884. E. Watson, the printer, was pensioned 28th November, and the duties have since been carried on by the reduced staff.

8. *Educational Staff.*—Mr. W. P. Thompson, the master of the lower school, was pensioned on the 1st May, and Mr. A. S. Brady was appointed from that date on the reduced salary of 100*l.* per annum. The Rev. J. C. Lambert, the master of the Head School was pensioned 1st January 1885, since which date this school has been closed.

9. *Medical Department.*—Reductions have been made in the establishment.

10. *Judicial Department.*—A reduction has been made by the appointment of a policeman in the place of one pensioned not being filled up.

11. There has been an increased expenditure on the pension list of 263*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* over the expenditure in 1883, on account of officers, &c. pensioned on abolition of office.

12. *Savings Bank.*—There has been no increase in the number of depositors, but the amount of deposits received in the year 1884 was 400*l.* in excess of that received in 1883. Of the 83 depositors 69 are poor persons, with deposits ranging from 1*l.* to 150*l.*, more than half this number having deposits of less than 25*l.* Of the seven societies that use this bank, one has 750*l.* deposited, the lowest being 30*l.* Interest is paid only on 150*l.*, the societies leaving their money with the bank for safe custody. It is much to be regretted that the poorer classes do not take more advantage of this opportunity of providing for times of distress, but they have so many friendly societies that this, I believe, accounts for the little use made of the savings bank by the great bulk of the population.

13. The return of the numbers attending school, gives a total of 908 children, who receive secular and religious instruction. The approximate number of children in the Island between the ages of 6 and 14 years does not exceed this number, and it may, therefore, be assumed that there are but few children who do not receive some kind of education.

14. The imports for the year have amounted to 41,816., against 43,095*l.* in 1883, and the exports to 1,436*l.* against 1,505*l.* in 1883. This does not include the oil and bone transhipped by the American Southern Whaling Fleet, which amounted to 21,970*l.*, against

12,750*l.* in 1883. There were also stores to the value of 2,130*l.* landed and re-shipped to Whaling fleet. ST. HELENA.

15. The total number of vessels that called at this port during the year was 414, against 521 in 1883. Of these, 20 were vessels of war and transports, 46 merchant steamers, 321 merchant sailing vessels, and 27 whalers.

16. *Agriculture.*—The storage of green fodder in silos has been introduced with success, and if generally adopted will be a great safeguard against loss of cattle during the droughts which periodically prevail, and have been a source hitherto of great loss to farmers in this Colony.

17. *Criminal.*—Two prisoners only have been convicted in the Supreme Court during the year, and these were foreigners belonging to the Whaling fleet.

18. *Hospital.*—The hospital is efficiently conducted, although a reduction has been made in the working staff.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANT BLUNT,
Lieut.-Col. R.E.

The Right Hon.
the Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

CEYLON.

CEYLON.

No. 20.

Administrator SIR J. C. MCLEOD, K.C.B., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
July 17, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of Ceylon for 1884, and to submit the following report on its contents:—

2. The coffee crop in 1883 was the smallest of any during the last quarter of a century, and that for 1884 exhibits a still further falling off. In 1877 the island exported 974,333 cwts. of coffee: in 1884 the export amounted to 299,395 cwts. During the intermediate years the decadence of the industry, owing mainly to leaf disease, has been almost uniformly rapid, each year, with one exception, showing a considerable decrease on the returns of its predecessor. The financial prosperity of the Colony was for long so intimately bound up with the fluctuating fortunes of its main staple of export that the progressive decline in the production of that article justified the most serious apprehension in regard to the prospects of the Island. The general revenue of the Government so largely depended indirectly on the state of the coffee industry that its condition could not properly be regarded with unmixed satisfaction even when that industry was most prosperous, and the years which brought with them so large a decline in the

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production of coffee were naturally years of great general anxiety and difficulty. Indications are not wanting that this precarious and unsatisfactory state of affairs is now, happily, drawing to a close and that the cultivation of a greater variety of products will in the future prevent a recurrence of the danger. Under the heading "Customs," I shall have occasion to show the grounds on which this anticipation rests, but in the meanwhile I may point out the satisfactory evidence afforded by the amount of the general revenue for the year which exceeded that of 1883 by Rs. 5,787 91 or 542*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, the figures being for 1883, Rs. 12,396,577 87 or 1,162,179*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*; for 1884, Rs. 12,402,365 78 or 1,162,721*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* I may also observe that whereas in previous years the deficiency in the coffee crop represented so much dead loss on the estates, the further decrease in 1884 is more than accounted for by the conversion of a large acreage of coffee into tea gardens, which, there is every reason to believe, will go far to recoup their owners when they come into bearing. The paddy crops (rice) were, generally speaking, exceedingly good.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue for 1884 amounted, as already stated, to Rs. 12,402,365 78, or at the par of 1*s.* 10½*d.* to the rupee, officially adopted for purposes of comparison with the results of former years, to 1,162,721*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, showing an increase of Rs. 5,787 91 or 542*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* on the revenue for 1883. This result is the more satisfactory, because the revenue of 1883, exceeded that of 1882 by Rs. 235,617 78 or 22,089*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, and because the only item of casual and exceptional receipt in 1884 is a sum of Rs. 33,658 on account of the Pearl fishery, against which should be set off the item of Rs. 70,458 33 received in 1883 on account of "deficiency of troops," and an item of Rs. 124,535 33 being the available balance on the Railway main line sinking fund, which was brought to account in 1883.

The expenditure on the votes of the year amounted to Rs. 12,318,218 20 or 1,154,832*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, showing an increase of Rs. 95,983 95 or 8,998*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* on the corresponding expenditure for 1883. There was in addition an expenditure of Rs. 37,772 63, or 3,541*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* from unexpended balances of previous years brought forward for expenditure in 1884: the total ordinary expenditure, then, amounted to Rs. 12,355,990 83 or 1,158,374*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, and it exceeded that of 1883 by Rs. 108,963 22 or 10,215*l.* 6*s.* The revenue of the year exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 84,147 58 or 7,888*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, but after deducting from the revenue Rs. 31,823, unexpended balances of 1884 taken forward for expenditure during the current year, the net excess of revenue became Rs. 52,324 58.

Revenue.

4. More punctual collections of the revenue during 1883 lessened the outstandings, and, in consequence, the recoveries in 1884, under the head "Arrears of Revenue" show a decrease of

Rs. 97,484 49. The increase of Rs. 64,392 79 under "Customs" was due chiefly to larger imports of cotton manufactures, spirits and cordials, and curry stuffs, and the decrease, Rs. 18,819 82 to inactivity in the trade in plumbago, upon which an export duty is levied.

Port and Harbour Dues.—The small decrease in the dues collected at Colombo was counterbalanced by an increase in recoveries on account of "port clearances" at other ports. The large increase Rs. 159,953 28 under the head "Land sales" arose from an increased demand for land suitable to the cultivation of tea. In the revenue derived from paddy and fine grain the slight decrease was caused by a partial failure of crops, owing to drought in the Northern and North-Central provinces. The increase under the head "Rents exclusive of land" is only apparent, and was due to more careful and prompter collection of the revenue than in 1883. The large decrease under the head "Licenses," the sub-heading "arrack, rum and toddy" alone showing a falling off of Rs. 52,988 04, is attributable to the lowered prosperity of the country. The Auditor-General and Controller of Revenue is at present conducting an inquiry with a view of ascertaining whether it is desirable to propose an amendment in the mode of collecting the excise duties, whereby illicit distillation and sale can be more effectually checked.

The amount recovered as composition duty declined owing to the failure of the Oriental Bank Corporation; and to a scarcity of money consequent on that failure may be ascribed the decrease under the head "Taxes."

A larger demand for firewood by the Railway department and for timber at the depôts in the Eastern Province increased the sum received under the head "Sale of Government property," sub-heading "timber." The large increment Rs. 68,931 14½ shown under the head "Reimbursements," sub-head "medical aid fund" is not entirely real. During 1883, Rs. 30,021 23 was recovered and placed in deposit, the unexpended balance of which, Rs. 3,125 62, was credited to revenue in 1884. The amount actually collected was Rs. 76,994 26½, minus Rs. 3,125 62, or Rs. 73,868 64½, and the true increase is the difference between this net receipt and Rs. 30,021 23 or Rs. 43,847 31½. Notwithstanding this large augmentation of the fund which was created by the levy of a higher duty under the proclamation of the 12th January 1884, and by a larger exportation of dutiable produce, the working of the Ordinance entailed a heavy charge on the general revenue. A stricter collection of water-rates and a revival of the demand for Crown land increased the receipts under the sub-heads "irrigation works" and "survey fees." During 1883 a rebate made on account of a deficiency in the number of troops stationed in the Colony, and a surplus, after payment of railway debt, from the Railway Sinking fund were brought to account as "Miscellaneous receipts," and as there were no such items of credit during 1884, the sub-heads "deficiency of troops" and "incidental" exhibit a somewhat large reduction. A great part of the advances made

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from the cash balances of the Colony for the construction of the breakwater were settled during the year, and consequently the investments and the interest due upon them were lessened by Rs. 62,387 08, shown as a decrease under the head "interest." A fishery in 1884 on the banks off the coast at Chilaw gave Rs. 33,217 86 more revenue to the head "Pearl fishery" than was accounted for in 1883. A very gratifying increment occurred in "Railway receipts" owing partly to the transport of increased quantities of produce and partly to the opening of the extension of the railway line from Nawalapitiya towards the plantations. The increase of "Telegraph receipts" which is only apparent, was occasioned by the receipts for one quarter of 1883 not having been credited to the Government during that year.

Expenditure.

5. A net decrease of Rs. 29,634 45 occurred in the cost of "Establishments," under which head, in addition to fixed and provisional salaries, are included allowances and office contingencies. Under the first sub-head there is an apparent increase of Rs. 14,266 owing to a moiety of the Governor's salary having remained undrawn in 1883 in consequence of the temporary administration of the Government. The expenditure on "Establishments," "secretariat," during 1883 was Rs. 179,962, which during 1884, owing to the half salary of the second Assistant Colonial Secretary remaining undrawn in that year, and to a saving in the expenditure on account of writers, was reduced to Rs. 165,308, showing a decrease of Rs. 14,654. There was a decrease of Rs. 15,876 under provisional salaries of the police department, and of Rs. 15,063 81 in the provisional salaries of railway servants. "Services exclusive of Establishments," show a net increase of Rs. 125,618 40½. Under the head "Pensions and retired allowances" the increase of Rs. 45,696 16 was occasioned partly by the low price of silver, but principally, of course, by additions having been made to the pension list. A larger manufacture of salt and a greater demand for fuel by the railway department augmented the cost of "Revenue services" by Rs. 143,045 74, and more careful attention to the expenses connected with the criminal sessions of the Supreme Court, and greater economy in the police department led to a decline in the expenditure under the heads "Administration of Justice" and "Police services." In consequence of the failure of the Oriental Bank Corporation it became necessary to construct treasure rooms at the Kachcheries of Jaffna, Nuwara Eliya and Badulla; some urgent repairs were effected in the Queen's House at Colombo; and accommodation for female patients had to be provided at the new lunatic asylum: and the cost of these extraordinary works increased the expenditure under the head "Works and buildings" by Rs. 17,200 97. As additional interest became due on the money borrowed for the improvement of the harbour and for the provision of a supply of water at Colombo; the amount paid under the head "Interest" advanced from Rs. 369,194 10 in 1883 to

Rs. 524,558 09 in 1884. The much appreciated reduction which was conceded in the amount to be contributed by Ceylon towards the cost of the military in the colonies caused a diminishment of Rs. 233,228 89 under the head "Contribution towards Military expenditure." There was an increase of expenditure under the head "Government vessels" attributable partly to the repair of the colonial steamer "Serendib," and partly to the fact that a larger quantity of coal was purchased in 1884 than in 1883. A falling off in the number of immigrant labourers from India slightly lessened the expense incurred in "Immigration." "Railway services" exhibit a small increase, due to the opening of a new line from Nawalapitiya to Talawakele. There was no expenditure shown under the head "Electric telegraph" in 1884, charges for this service having been brought to account as "Conveyance of Mails" and "Postal telegraph services."

Assets and Liabilities.

6. The assets of the Government on the 31st December 1884 amounted to Rs. 5,956,367 72 or 558,409*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* and the liabilities to Rs. 4,666,421 60 or 437,477*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* There was thus an excess of assets over liabilities of Rs. 1,289,946 12, or 120,932*l.* 9*s.*

Public Debt.

7. The debt of the Colony on the same date amounted to 2,193,274*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* consisting of 393,900*l.* balance due on original debt of 400,000*l.* raised under the provisions of Ordinance No. 1 of 1876 for the improvement of the harbour of Colombo, 233,374*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* the amount remaining unpaid out of 250,000*l.* borrowed in England, under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 6 of 1875 from the Public Works Loan Commissioners, 275,000*l.* raised by the sale of debentures under the Ordinance No. 8 of 1877 for the construction of the railway from Kandy to Matale, 1,000,000*l.* due on debentures issued by authority of the Ordinance No. 9 of 1878, and employed in extending the railway from Nawalapitiya to Nanuoya, and 291,000*l.* raised under Ordinance No. 7 of 1879 for the construction of the Colombo Waterworks. Repayment of this debt, principal and interest, is secured on the general revenue of the Colony.

Imports and Exports.

8. The imports of the year were valued at Rs. 51,322,142 45, and the exports at Rs. 33,720,134 60 or excluding specie at Rs. 43,484,350 45 and Rs. 33,508,289 60 respectively. These figures when compared with those for the preceding year show an increase of Rs. 369,313 82 in the value of goods imported, and a decrease of Rs. 1,705,227 36 in the value of goods exported. The decline is due entirely to the continued falling off in coffee, the exports of other articles of Ceylon produce having increased both in quantity and value.

Imports.

9. Large increases occurred in the value of cotton manufactures and in the duty paid on their importation. The quantity of coal and coke imported in 1884 was slightly less than in the preceding year, though considerably greater than in 1882. Rs. 47,949 less duty was recovered on grain, and its value was less by Rs. 602,799 than in 1883. There was a decrease of Rs. 187,598 in the value of dried fish, and an increase in the value of curry stuff amounting to Rs. 276,890. It will be observed with satisfaction that the values of live stock, of manures, and of machinery were all in advance of the corresponding figures for 1883, and that the value of imported tea declined.

Exports.

10. Although there was a falling off of only 6,021 cwts. of coffee there was a difference in its value of Rs. 1,723,860. But for this large decrease the value of exports generally would show an improvement on the returns of 1883. Equally with cinchona, cardamons, cacao, Liberian coffee, and tea, the longer established products, cinnamon, coir, cocoanut oil, citronella oil, copperah, and poonac advanced both in quantity and value. The gross value of the different products of the palm, including arrack, was no less than Rs. 7,825,584 91. The export of cocoanut oil was valued at Rs. 4,778,115 54, or Rs. 442,695 in excess of the figures for 1883; coir fibre, rope, yarn, and manufacture at Rs. 763,234 against Rs. 759,523 last year; copperah shows an increase of 31,154 cwt. and Rs. 148,093 value. Cinnamon rather more than maintained its position. Tea advanced from 1,665,768 lbs., valued at Rs. 916,172 40 to 2,392,973 lbs. valued at Rs. 1,435,783 80; and cacao from 3,376 cwt. valued at Rs. 151,961 to 9,241 cwt., valued at Rs. 323,451. The value of the quantity of cinchona exported during 1883 was placed at Rs. 4,493,403, while the value of the quantity exported in 1884, which was 4,376,275 lbs. in excess of the quantity for 1883, is entered only at Rs. 4,151,569. This is due to the fact that the value in 1883 was estimated at 60 cents a pound weight all round, some difficulty being experienced in classifying the two kinds of bark, while during 1884 the value was taken at 40 cents per lb. for trunk bark and at 7 cents per lb. for branch and twig bark. There was a larger export of Liberian coffee, of citronella oil, and of poonac. Unmanufactured tobacco too shows an increase of 15,259 cwts. and of Rs. 345,857 in value.

Shipping.

11. As compared with 1883 there was an increase of 17,237 tons and 65 vessels inwards, and 38 vessels and 66,723 tons outwards. During 1884 135 vessels of 217,490 tons called at Colombo for coal against 110 vessels of 168,216 tons in 1883.

Public Works.

12. The total expenditure during 1884 amounted to Rs. 1,979,687 44 or Rs. 122,229 95 less than the expenditure of the preceding year. The cost of the establishment, including

salaries, fixed and provisional, and allowances, but exclusive of travelling allowances and other general charges, the details of which are given under the head "Departmental charges," was Rs. 278,550 39, an increase of Rs. 9,600 on the corresponding cost in 1883. If to this is added Rs. 58,054 65, the travelling expenses of the Director and his assistants, the whole cost of the establishment amounted to Rs. 336,605 04 against Rs. 325,751 for 1883. The mileage of principal roads is returned at 2,868·68 miles against, in 1883, 2,834·44 miles. The increase is due to the extension of the Uda Pussellawa road, the lower Badulla road and the road to the Horton Plains, all in the Central Province, and to a correction of the mileage on other roads. The average cost of the upkeep of principal roads was Rs. 59 68 less per mile than during the previous year. The expenditure upon irrigation works, excluding maintenance was Rs. 188,418 44 more than double the sum spent in 1883. The increase is due to several large works being in course of construction and regarding which your Lordship has already been fully informed. The subjoined tables exhibit (*a.*) a classification of the expenditure of the department under the headings "Establishments," "Upkeep," "New works and buildings," "Irrigation works," and departmental and miscellaneous charges; (*b.*) the funds from which such expenditure was met; (*c.*) the expenditure, including the cost of establishment, incurred in each Province; (*d.*) a statement of mileage, cost of upkeep, and average cost of upkeep per mile, during the seven years 1878 to 1884.

The furniture of the Queen's houses is reported to have been maintained in proper order, and the structures themselves to be in good condition.

(*a.*)

	1884.	1883.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Establishment, including allowances and contingencies	278,550 39	268,949 84	9,600 55	—
Up-keep of roads, bridges, canals, and irrigation works	1,232,503 14	1,395,095 27	—	162,592 13
Repairs of buildings	117,694 44	110,704 23	6,990 21	—
Departmental charges and miscellaneous	96,210 09	111,463 42	—	15,253 33
New works and buildings	6,226 34	25,557 19	—	19,330 85
Alterations and additions to buildings	11,627 54	8,250 29	3,377 25	—
New roads and additions to roads	26,674 51	74,324 89	—	47,650 38
New bridges	21,782 55	3,741 96	18,040 59	—
Irrigation works	188,418 44	93,830 30	94,588 14	—
Total	1,979,687 44	2,091,917 39	132,596 74	244,826 69

(*b.*)

	1884.	1883.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Supply Bill, 1884 - -	1,622,491 70	1,645,557 14	—	23,065 44
Supplementary Supply Bill, 1884 - - -	30,193 98	27,505 18	2,688 80	—
Amounts in deposit -	6,524 60	36,402 86	—	29,878 26
Unexpended balances of previous years - -	32,901 18	24,744 06	8,157 12	—
Road Ordinance funds -	237,125 18	258,841 04	—	21,715 86
Private contribution -	33,396 81	55,579 17	—	22,182 36
Loan board funds - -	—	954 19	—	954 19
From other departments -	14,454 08	32,592 86	—	18,138 78
From vote for Colombo Waterworks - -	2,599 91	9,740 89	—	7,140 98
Total - -	1,979,687 44	2,091,917 39	10,845 92	123,075 87

(*c.*)

	1884.	1883.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Western Province - -	597,463 06	625,617 04	—	28,153 98
North-Western Province -	145,282 64	157,989 70	—	12,707 06
Southern Province -	177,985 21	211,372 13	—	33,386 92
Eastern Province - -	139,101 86	143,613 89	—	4,512 03
Northern Province -	149,487 20	154,381 15	—	4,893 95
North Central Province -	173,962 51	87,925 97	86,036 54	—
Central Province - -	596,404 96	711,017 51	—	114,612 55
Total - -	1,979,687 44	2,091,917 39	86,036 54	198,266 49

(*d.*)

Year.	Total Mileage of Roads.	Total cost of Upkeep of Roads each Year.	Average cost of Upkeep per mile each Year.
		Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1878 - - -	2,637·53	1,722,441 84	653 50
1879 - - -	2,761·28	1,652,263 39	598 36
1880 - - -	2,762·72	1,656,689 71	599 65
1881 - - -	2,808·40	1,457,708 63	519 50
1882 - - -	2,836·47	1,393,649 57	491 33
1883 - - -	2,834·44	1,237,358 74	436 54
1884 - - -	2,868·68	1,081,093 37	376 86

Breakwater.

13. During the year the breakwater pier-head, lighthouse, and landing jetty were built, 2,000 feet of "skin capping" was laid, and 712 "apron bags" were deposited. The expenditure for the year was Rs. 488,234 89, bringing the gross expenditure up to the end of 1884 to Rs. 7,975,067 24.

Survey Department.

14. The total amount realised by the sale and settlement of Crown lands, including survey fees, is reported by the Surveyor General to have been Rs. 416,849, exceeding the revenue of 1883 by Rs. 86,038. During the year the previously existing system of account was altered in such a manner as to show the amount actually recovered, instead of the amount due; under the old system the excess over the revenue of 1883 would have appeared as Rs. 158,934. The gross expenditure of the Department from its own votes was Rs. 356,376, from which total, in order to find the cost of surveys, a sum of Rs. 37,318 should be deducted, being the amount spent on railway surveys, meteorological observations, and other miscellaneous services which contributed nothing to the earnings of the Department. In these earnings is included the value of Crown land alienated, which, cannot be regarded as money earned. Details of such alienation will be found in the subjoined table, as well as an abstract of lands disposed of to Europeans and to natives respectively. There is a growing demand for land situated in the Western and North-Western Provinces. The work of preparing on an accurate and large scale a topographical survey of the Island, which hitherto by force of circumstances has been more or less neglected, was undertaken systematically, while the minor triangulation was continued.

A.

RETURN of LANDS alienated from the Crown during the Year 1884.

Provinces.	Crown Lands sold.				Encroachments sold or given at a Valuation.				Granted at Half Value.				Old Grants or Grants made in terms of the Minute of 8th Aug. 1844.			Free Grants or Settlements for Certificates against the Crown.			Total Results of Sales, &c. of each Province during the year.				
	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Amount including Fees.
		Acres.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.		Acres.	Rs.		Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Central - -	162	2,011	26,493	4,328	70	209	2,198	581	19	59	1,086	172	—	—	—	524	677	2,348	775	2,956	29,777	7,429	37,206
Western - -	1,597	8,563	138,751	20,170	—	—	—	—	257	323	5,869	1,145	—	—	—	306	728	2,174	2,160	9,614	144,620	23,489	168,109
Eastern - -	198	388	5,388½	1,245	3	1	13½	7½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	201	389	5,402	1,252½	6,654½
Southern - -	240	1,203	16,268	3,133	94	150	3,746	503	28	33	1,047	120	—	—	—	60	137	401	422	1,523	21,061	4,157	25,218
Northern -	96	516	5,464	1,309	—	—	—	—	2	½	60	5	—	—	—	4	72	149	102	588½	5,524	1,463½	6,987½
North-Western -	468	6,420	151,921	12,648	—	—	—	—	11	35	383	95	—	—	—	29	138	385	508	6,593	152,304	13,128	165,432
North Central -	68	279	3,919	774	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	68	279	3,919	774	4,693
Fees recovered on Temple Land Title Plans in 1884 - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	30
Fees for tracings, &c. - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,519	2,519
Total -	2,829	19,380	348,204½	43,607	167	360	5,957½	1,091½	317	450½	8,445	1,537	—	—	—	923	1,752	5,457	4,236	21942½	362,607	54,242	416,849

B.

ABSTRACT of LANDS alienated from the Crown to EUROPEANS and NATIVES in 1884.

Provinces.	Europeans.			
	Lots.	Extent.	Amount and Fees.	Average rate per Acre.
		A. R P.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Central - -	125	1,790 0 496	24,356 99	13 60
Western - - -	48	3,052 3 3	42,509 60	13 92
Eastern - - -	—	—	—	—
Southern - - -	8	62 1 6	827 32	13 29
Northern - -	2	88 2 20	1,046 90	11 83
North-Western - -	5	155 0 9	1,407 90	9 08
North Central - -	—	—	—	—
Total - -	188	5,148 3 296	70,148 71	13 62

(*continued.*)

Provinces.	Natives.			
	Lots.	Extent.	Amount and Fees.	Average rate per Acre.
		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Central - - -	650	1,166 2 28·43	12,849 40	11 0
Western - - -	2,112	6,561 0 24	125,599 14	19 14
Eastern - - -	201	388 3 18	6,654 60	17 12
Southern - - -	414	1,466 2 13	24,390 67	16 70
Northern - -	100	500 1 1	5,940 65	11 88
North-Western - -	503	6,437 3 33	164,023 60	25 47
North Central - -	68	279 3 10	4,693 10	16 76
Total - -	4,048	16,795 1 7·43	344,151 16	20 49

Railway.

15. The length of line open for public traffic was increased from 139¼ to 167¾ miles, by the completion of the extension from Nawalapitiya to Talawakele. The total earnings during the year were Rs. 2,544,585 or Rs. 68,201 18 in excess of the income of 1883, and the working expenses Rs. 1,359,102; 53·4 per cent. of the receipts, and Rs. 82,302 above the expenses of the previous year. This increase was due to the additional cost of working the newly opened way. The net profit on the main line between Colombo and Kandy was 5·5 per cent. on the capital expenditure. On the branch line from Peradeniya to Nawalapitiya the profit was equal to a dividend of 4·5 per cent. against 3·5 per cent. earned in 1883, the extension of this branch to Talawakele, 2½ miles of which were opened in June and the remaining 6½ miles towards the end of November, showed a profit of 0·3 per cent.; and for the first time since the opening of the line the branch from Kandy to Matale paid 0·6 per cent. The coast line between Colombo and Kalutara yielded 2·9 per cent. or 0·7 higher than in 1883.

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Legislation.

16. Nineteen Ordinances were passed during an adjourned session of the Legislative Council at the beginning of the year and 24 during the ordinary sessions held towards the end of the year. Of these 43 Ordinances the most important are:—

No. 15.—An Ordinance to make provision for granting pensions to widows and orphans of deceased public officers of this Colony.

No. 16.—An Ordinance to amend the Ordinance No. 11 of 1865 intituled "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws "relating to servants, labourers, and and journeymen artificers "under contracts for hire and service" and to provide for the speedy recovery of wages due to labourers. This Ordinance was passed to secure to labourers on estates the payment of their wages, which, owing to the frequency of estates changing hands and the conflicting rights of mortgagees and proprietors had practically in some instances been imperilled. It provides for the recovery of wages due by summary process in the Court of Requests; it makes the labourers' wages for a full three months a primary charge on the estate itself; and it empowers the Government to intervene through the Attorney General to secure the rights of the labourers when necessary. An incidental but important effect of the measure will be to preclude the risk of a diminution of immigrant labour for the estates, through an apprehension of the insecurity of labourers' wages.

No. 26.—An Ordinance for the raising by Debentures or Ceylon Inscribed Stock of a sum not exceeding 160,000*l.* sterling to be applied to the redemption of such Oriental bank notes as were guaranteed by the Government of this Colony.

No. 31.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 10 of 1861, entitled "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws "relating to public thoroughfares in this Colony." This Ordinance was necessitated by the cumbersomeness of the machinery for bringing defaulters to account having encouraged defaulters to such an extent that, in spite of the commitment of large number of defaulters, the vast proportion escaped altogether, with the result of the widespread and growing demoralization of the people. The remedy supplied will effectually check this evil and eventually prove a great boon to the people themselves.

No. 32.—An Ordinance to provide for the issue of Government paper currency.

No. 39.—An Ordinance to re-adjust the Customs duties leviable under Ordinance No. 17 of 1869 and No. 14 of 1871.

No. 40.—An Ordinance to amend the postal Ordinance of 1878.

No. 43.—An Ordinance to consolidate the stamp duties leviable in this Colony; opportunity was taken of the necessity for a consolidation of the various existing Ordinances on stamp duties to moderately increase the duties, with the double object of strengthening the revenue and of making litigants in civil cases pay a larger proportion than they had hitherto paid of the cost of administration of civil justice.

Public Health.

17. The principal Civil Medical Officer reports that the public health was unsatisfactory owing to the prevalence throughout the island of malarial fever, and in the northern and eastern provinces of small pox in an epidemic form. There were 1,307 cases of small pox, 235 of which ended fatally, and 991 cases of chicken pox, resulting in one death; cholera re-appeared during the year, and out of 83 cases, 58 proved fatal. Of 116,263 subjects operated upon by the Government Vaccinators 108,580 were primary operations, of which 74·87 per cent. were successful, 2·83 per cent. failed, and 22·28 per cent. omitted to present themselves for examination. The birth-rate per mille was 30·94 against 29·7 in 1883 and 26·82 in 1882, and the death-rate was 22·26, the rate for 1883 having been 19·4, and 19·8 for 1882. The principal causes of death were fevers, 13,385 against 9,310 during 1883, dysentery and diarrhœa and infantile disorders. 56 persons were drowned, and 67 committed suicide. The number of patients treated in the hospitals and asylums during 1884 was 19,579, an increase of 2,132 on the number for 1883. Of these 2,205 died, the per-centage of deaths on the number of cases treated being 11·26. The death-rate for mixed races was 6·78 against 6·75 during 1883, and for Malabars 18·54 against 16·39, the increased rate for the latter being attributable to the hopeless condition in which the sufferers arrived at the hospitals. Outdoor dispensaries increase in popular favour. The number of cases relieved has steadily advanced from 52,142 in 1877 to 142,373 during 1884, and the contributions of the patients from Rs. 3,994 67 to Rs. 13,408 62. At the dispensaries connected with the medical wants of immigrant labourers in the planting districts 31,231 cases were treated. The cost of the medical establishment, including salaries, allowances, and contingencies amounted to Rs. 218,155 22, an excess of Rs. 6,376 94 over the cost during 1883, owing to periodical increments to the salaries of several officers having become due during the year. There was an increase, too, due to the prevalence of small pox, in the amount expended upon hospitals and sanitation, the figures being for 1884 Rs. 238,204 16, and for 1883 Rs. 214,879 17. The whole expenditure during the year, excluding the cost of working the Medical Wants Ordinance and deducting Rs. 10,697 22, the value of medicines supplied from the medical store for the purposes of that Ordinance, was Rs. 496,388 82 or Rs. 5,335 90 more than in 1883. The cost of working the Medical Wants Ordinance amounted to Rs. 118,614 46, a decrease of Rs. 15,417 59 on the cost during 1883, but still entailing a charge on the general revenue of Rs. 20,381 55; the grand total of the expenditure of the Department for the year amounted then to Rs. 615,003 28, an excess of Rs. 5,189 41 over the amount for the preceding year. After deducting the sums recovered in each year under the 15th and 19th clauses of Ordinance No 17 of 1880 and under the 4th clause of Ordinance No. 9 of 1882, the net cost to Government of the Civil Medical Department is

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found to have been in 1883 Rs. 579,792 54 and Rs. 516,770 37 during 1884. The working of the Medical Wants Ordinance forms the subject of a special report by the principal civil medical officer, which, with my remarks thereon, will be forwarded to your Lordship in due course.

Education.

18. The total number of Government schools and of grant-in-aid schools on the 31st December 1884 was 1,245, being a decrease of 28 schools as compared with 1883, and the total nominal attendance was 87,453 against 89,030, or a decrease of 1,577 scholars. The falling off both in the number of schools and in the number of scholars is likely to continue, schools in receipt of grants dropping off the list from time to time, and it being impossible in the present state of the revenue to replace them. The department, however, received a most liberal vote. In 1872 when the revenue nearly approximated to that of 1884, the vote for Education was Rs. 273,590, or 2 per cent. on a revenue of Rs. 12,253,011, while in 1884 the vote was Rs. 499,988 or 4 per cent. on a revenue of Rs. 12,402,365.

The total expenditure during 1884 was Rs. 488,657, an excess over the expenditure of the preceeding year of Rs. 11,166. The additional expenditure was incurred on account of the English University scholarship, the publication of a new series of Sinhalese schoolbooks, and an increased supply of books and stationery. The increase of Rs. 7,646 to grant-in-aid schools is unreal and a mere matter of account.

In the following tables are shown (1.) the number of boys and girls under instruction, and the per-centage of daily attendance; (2.) the classification of the schools with reference to locality, standard of instruction, and proportion of population under instruction; (3.) the number of scholars in both Government and aided schools, presented under the three different classed standards of the revised code; (4.) the number of children examined in each standard; (5.) the amounts of grant-in-aid earned by the several missions throughout the Colony.

(1.)

	Number of Schools.	Number of Boys. under nominal instruction	Number of Girls. under nominal instruction.	Total Number of Boys and Girls under nominal instruction.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage.
GOVERNMENT.						
English - -	24	1,512	431	1,943	1,628	82·75
Anglo-vernacular -	24	2,282	141	2,423	1,586	65·45
Vernacular - -	383	18,986	4,325	23,311	14,893	63·88
GRANT-IN-AID.						
English - -	87	6,778	1,040	7,818	5,565	71·18
Anglo-vernacular -	58	3,467	800	4,267	2,841	66·58
Vernacular - -	669	33,345	14,346	47,691	28,603	59·97
Total - -	1,245	66,370	21,083	87,453	55,116	—

(2.)

Class of Schools.	Western Province.		Southern Province.		Northern Province.		Eastern Province.	
	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.
GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS.								
English - -	40	4,445	17	1,343	30	2,247	6	447
Anglo-vernacular -	26	2,327	10	937	32	2,399	3	168
Vernacular -	480	34,962	116	7,088	241	15,895	87	5,198
Total -	546	41,734	143	9,368	303	20,541	96	5,813
Population - -	897,329		433,520		302,500		127,555	
Proportion under instruction according to census of 1881.	1 in 19		1 in 36		1 in 12		1 in 17	

(*continued.*)

Class of Schools.	Central Province.		North-Western Province.		North Central Province.		Total.	
	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.
GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS.								
English - -	13	967	5	312	—	—	111	9,761
Anglo-vernacular -	11	859	—	—	—	—	82	6,690
Vernacular - -	66	3,799	54	3,752	8	308	1,052	71,002
Total - -	90	5,625	59	4,064	8	308	1,245	87,453
Population - -	639,361		293,327		66,146		2,759,738	
Proportion under instruction according to census of 1881.	1 in 90		1 in 65		1 in 184		1 in 27	

(3.)

	Primary.	Middle.	High.
English Schools - - -	4,849	1,082	797
Anglo Vernacular Schools - -	3,768	641	27
Vernacular Schools - - -	40,060	1,319	106
Total - - - -	48,677	3,042	930

(4.)

Standards.	No. of Children examined in Government English Schools.			No. of Children examined in Government Anglo-vernacular Schools.		
	1882.	1883.	1884.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Standard I. - - -	231	246	172	336	341	317
Standard II. - -	294	220	238	327	399	330
Standard III. - -	273	253	206	273	267	289
Standard IV. - -	254	218	187	175	216	196
Standard V. - - -	142	173	123	102	89	140
Standard VI. - -	77	75	89	101	98	71
Standard VII. - -	16	42	42	28	35	35
Standard VIII. - -	10	39	10	7	11	20
Total - -	1,297	1,266	1,067	1,349	1,456	1,398

(*continued.*)

Standards.	No. of Children examined in Government Vernacular Schools.			No. of Children examined in Grant-in-aid English Schools.		
	1882.	1883.	1884.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Standard I. - - -	3,426	3,794	3,829	871	670	631
Standard II. - - -	2,889	3,336	3,201	879	1,015	771
Standard III. - -	1,763	2,034	2,127	851	854	1,840
Standard IV. - -	945	1,089	1,097	956	837	756
Standard V. - - -	414	476	571	735	770	640
Standard VI. - -	152	185	230	514	495	519
Standard VII. - -	27	46	66	251	301	288
Standard VIII. - -	—	11	16	111	155	134
Total - -	9,616	10,971	11,137	5,163	5,097	4,579

(*continued*).

Standards.	No. of Children examined in Grant-in-aid Anglo-vernacular Schools.			No. of Children examined in Grant-in-aid Vernacular Schools.			Total.		
	1882.	1883.	1884.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Standard I. - - -	432	429	522	7,555	7,707	8,044	12,851	13,187	13,515
Standard II. - -	453	447	432	5,519	6,514	6,331	10,361	11,931	11,303
Standard III. - -	373	337	363	4,056	4,132	4,368	7,589	7,877	8,193
Standard IV. - -	376	330	309	3,203	2,717	2,511	5,909	5,407	5,056
Standard V. - - -	300	314	276	1,346	1,834	1,576	3,039	3,656	3,326
Standard VI. - -	231	259	283	347	549	745	1,422	1,661	1,937
Standard VII. - -	93	132	166	42	139	196	457	695	793
Standard VIII. - -	16	46	69	6	14	52	150	27	301
Total - -	2,274	2,294	2,420	22,074	23,606	23,823	41,778	44,690	44,424

(5.)

Mission.	Western.		Southern.		Northern.		Eastern.		Central.		North-Western.		North Central.		Total.	
	—	Grant.	—	Grant.	—	Grant.	—	Grant.	—	Grant.	—	Grant.	—	Grant.	—	Grant.
		Rs. cts.		Rs. cts.		Rs. cts.		Rs. cts.		Rs. cts.		Rs. cts.		Rs. cts.		Rs. cts.
American - - -	—	—	—	—	13	5,816 00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	5,816 00
Baptist - - -	2	808 50	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	210 00	—	—	—	—	3	1,018 50
Buddhist - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church of England:																
C. M. S. - -	8	3,016 50	—	—	4	1,936 00	—	—	2	451 00	—	—	—	—	14	5,403 50
Diocesan - -	1	190 50	2	1,205 50	—	—	—	—	2	666 50	—	—	—	—	5	2,062 50
Private - - -	—	—	1	324 50	5	1,830 50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2,155 00
Roman Catholic - -	—	—	—	—	2	663 50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	663 50
Sivite - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wesleyan - -	2	156 50	3	922 50	8	4,826 00	2	991 00	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	6,896 00
Total - - -	13	4,172 00	6	2,452 50	32	15,072 00	2	991 00	5	1,327 50	—	—	—	—	58	24,015 00

CEYLON.

Judicial Statistics.

19. It appears from the figures furnished by the Attorney General for 1884 that the number of summary convictions for minor offences is almost the same as in 1883, the numbers being 12,034 and 12,139 respectively. The number of convictions before the Superior Court shows a small increase. In 1884, of 63 persons indicted for murder, 19 were convicted, 44 were acquitted, and one was found to be insane. These figures are slightly less than those for 1882 and 1883. The number of persons convicted of manslaughter was the same as in 1883, 62, and 24 persons were acquitted against 38 in 1883. Seventeen cases of rape, were tried resulting in nine convictions and eight acquittals, a considerable increase on the corresponding figures for 1883.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) J. C. MCLEOD.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. 21.

Administrator C. C. SMITH, C.M.G. to the Right Hon. the EARL of DERBY, K.G.

Government House, Singapore,
April 30, 1885.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit two copies of the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1884, which are complete with the exception of the details of imports and exports, which will form a separate volume to be issued later as an Appendix.

2. I also enclose the usual Report upon the Blue Book by the acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) CECIL C. SMITH.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the STRAITS SETTLEMENTS BLUE BOOK for the Year 1884.

FINANCE.

Revenue.

1. The revenue of the Colony received during the year 1884 amounted to $3,515,841, and the expenditure defrayed during the year, including everything, amounted to $3,238,031 giving a surplus on the year's transactions of $277,810, or $175,810 in excess of the Budget surplus. This excess principally arises in

consequence of the profit on the copper coin of 1883 having been thrown over into the 1884 accounts.

2. The following comparative statement gives particulars of the principal items of the revenue and expenditure in 1883 and 1884:—

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
——	1883.	1884.	——	1883.	1884.
	$	$		$	$
Land revenue ordinary	163,273	175,872	Salaries	792,688	885,347
Land revenue special	—	353,598	Education	75,293	99,018
Licenses	2,152,482	2,152,554	Medical	77,443	93,911
Stamps	249,608	293,307	Police	63,803	53,117
Reimbursements (including municipal contribution towards police expenditure, $50,600).	123,792	130,482	Gaols	61,204	64,640
			Miscellaneous services	91,147	126,563
			Works and buildings	754,868	973,235
			Roads, streets, and bridges	185,588	257,511
Interest	101,818	127,827	Military expenditure	239,122	239,910
Other receipts	268,369	282,201	Special expenditure	205,037	5,429
			Other expenditure	763,902	439,350
Total	3,059,342	3,515,841	Total	3,310,095	3,238,031

It will be observed that an increase appears in each heading of revenue.

3. The following statement gives particulars of the assets and liabilities on the 1st January, 1884, and the 1st January, 1885:—

Assets.			Liabilities.		
——	1st January, 1884.	1st January, 1885.	——	1st January, 1884.	1st January, 1885.
	$	$			$
Cash on current accounts or on fixed deposit with local banks	298,143	523,247	Debenture loan	352,186	304,909
			Deposits, &c.	173,430	255,765
			Expenditure in arrears	119,160	148,987
Balance on Crown Agent's account and Bills	202,729	19,815			
Invested in Government of India loans	500,000	500,000			
Loans to Native States	97,245	209,282	Net balance to the credit of the Colony	789,293	1,038,254
Loans to Municipalities	232,500	302,500			
Miscellaneous advances, &c.	45,700	131,954			
Singapore defences	41,262	43,648			
Revenue in arrears	16,490	17,469			
Total	1,434,069	1,747,915	Total	1,434,069	1,747,915

4. The reserve fund, invested in Indian securities, still stands at $500,000. The deposits in the local banks have been increased from $298,143 to $523,247, and a loan of $70,000, has been made during 1884 to the municipality of Singapore.

5. The following statement gives particulars of the land revenue collected in 1883 and 1884. The large increase is, it will be seen, almost entirely due to the "extraordinary" sums which have

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

come in from the sale of Tĕluk Ayer Reclamation lands in Singapore and from the recovery of the cost of the Beach Street reclamations in Penang.

	1883.			Total.	1884.			Total.
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Premium on leases - -	13,418	4,520	2,394	20,362	22,607	8,676	578	31,861
Special sales - - -	—	—	—	—	196,717	156,881	—	353,598
Rents - - - -	34,561	28,946	55,441	118,948	35,339	27,256	55,767	118,362
Tenths and royalties - -	4,579	1,206	8,048	13,833	2,571	1,995	9,581	14,147
Miscellaneous - -	2,883	6,357	889	10,129	3,448	7,424	630	11,502
	55,471	41,029	66,772		260,682	202,232	66,556	
	163,272				529,470			

6. The ordinary items of revenue show the following increases upon the similar items last year:—

	$	
Stamps - - -	43,699 or 17½	per cent.
Postage - - -	2,734 „ 3	„
Harbour - - -	3,789 „ 5⅓	„
Interest - -	36,327 „ 40	„
Fines, &c. - -	7,845 „ 16⅔	„

Expenditure.

7. The expenditure in 1884 on public works (exclusive of establishments), as compared with the similar expenditure in the previous year, is shown in the following statement:—

	1883.			1884.		
	Works.	Roads.	Total.	Works.	Roads.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Singapore -	448,302	24,932	473,234	563,551	57,214	620,765
Penang -	243,191	112,897	356,088	357,253	135,429	492,682
Malacca -	63,375	47,758	111,133	52,431	64,868	117,299
	754,868	185,587	940,455	973,235	257,511	1,230,746

8. The following are the principal works commenced, continued, or completed in 1884:—

No.	Works and Buildings, Singapore.	Estimated Cost.	Actual Payments. Works in Progress.	
			Prior to 1884.	1884.
		$	$ c.	$ c.
1	Magistrates' Courts - -	70,100	48,461 27	23,964 97
2	Tĕluk Ayer reclamation - -	507,071	412,888 70	102,777 14
3	Construction of new Police Station and Barracks at Tĕluk Ayer -	17,550	—	6,213 83
4	New Library and Museum -	80,000	—	16,303 17
5	Improvement and maintenance of Singapore River - - -	95,000	50,873 84	25,553 09
6	Erection of new offices for Protector of Chinese - - -	40,500	—	4,624 84
7	New Kampong Malacca Bridge -	43,800	—	11,346 40
8	New River Wall, South Kampong Malacca - - -	100,400	5,448 44	31,419 49
9	Works connected with filling up the Singapore Canal (final vote)	102,680	60,566 18	42,678 90
10	Construction of new Lunatic Asylum - - -	239,854	—	9,929 14

Local Revenues.

9. The following statement gives the revenue and expenditure and the cash balances of the municipalities of the three Settlements for 1883 and 1884:—

Municipalities.	1883.	1884.
REVENUE—	$	$
Singapore - - - -	316,408	334,139
Penang - - - -	182,025	186,250
Malacca - - - -	27,188	24,232
	525,621	544,621
EXPENDITURE—		
Singapore - - - -	324,935	452,249
Penang - - - -	233,352	180,433
Malacca - - - -	26,465	26,481
	584,752	659,163
CASH BALANCES AT CLOSE OF YEAR—		
Singapore - - -	47,309	(Debit) 801
Penang - - - -	234	6,050
Malacca - - - -	4,585	2,337
	52,128	7,586

10. It will be noticed that, taking the three Settlements together, the municipal revenues have increased by $19,000, and the expenditure by $74,411.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

LEGISLATION.

11. The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year 1884. All have received the gracious confirmation and allowance of Her Majesty.

Ordinances.

I.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinances VIII. of 1868 ("The Gunpowder Ordinance") and VIII. of 1872 ("The Harbours Ordinance").

II.—An Ordinance to amend the law concerning the rate of interest carried by judgment debts.

III.—An Ordinance for the protection of wild birds.

IV.—An Ordinance to amend "The Excise Ordinance, 1870."

V.—An Ordinance for the protection of Indian immigrants.

VI.—An Ordinance for making final provision for the public service for the year 1883.

VII.—An Ordinance to amend the law relating to inquests of death.

VIII.—An Ordinance to provide for the demarcation of land and for the establishment and maintenance of boundary marks.

IX.—An Ordinance for making provision for the Public Service for the year 1885.

X.—An Ordinance for making temporary provision for securing the status of French mail steamers at the ports of the Colony.

XI.—An Ordinance to render unnecessary the holding of a Court of Appeal at Singapore and of the Council of Judges in and for the year 1884.

12. Ordinance No. V. was brought into operation in the Colony on the 1st January, 1885, on the repeal of the Indian Emigration Act V. of 1877, by which the former restrictions on the emigration of Indian labourers to this Colony were removed.

13. By Ordinance No. VII. power is given to coroners to hold inquests of death without a jury.

Postal Department.

Postal work.

14. The returns of 1884 of letters, post cards, books, newspapers, patterns and parcels show that, except in the case of newspapers received, there was an increase in each category of correspondence over the number for 1883. In the year under review, 1,195,753 articles were received, and 1,107,374 were despatched, as compared with 999,983 and 869,094 in the previous year. The number of letters received and despatched show increases of 187,989 and 182,283 respectively.

15. The total revenue of the department ($98,094) exceeded the amount collected in 1883 by $7,034, to which excess the sale of stamps contributed an increase of $5,748, over the sales of the previous year. Straits Settlements. Revenue.

16. The expenditure of the department showed a slight decrease as compared with 1883. Expenditure.

17. During last year the public used the Money Order Service to a far greater extent than formerly. Orders to the value of 3,953*l.* were issued on the United Kingdom during the year under review, as compared with 2,755*l.* in 1883. The transactions with the Native States amounted to $16,652, being an increase of upwards of 250 per cent. on the business of 1883. On India, orders were drawn for Rs. 66,422 in 1884, against Rs. 51,671 the year before, and in addition to the former figures Rs. 40,756 worth of orders issued in Pêrak were advised through the Postal Department of the Colony. The money order system has been very largely extended, both to other British Colonies and to foreign countries. Money Orders.

18. The records show that 58,627 registered articles passed through the department during the year, as compared with 46,457 in 1883. Two registered letters were lost. Registration.

19. The Parcel Post Service made marked progress, and a local service was established during the year. The number of parcels transmitted by post increased from 1,286 in 1883 to 4,588 in 1884. Parcel Post.

Savings Banks.

20. The whole amount of money invested in the Colony's savings bank during 1884 is $91,020, or a net addition of $28,715 to the aggregate investments at the beginning of the year.

21. In Singapore, 214 new accounts were opened in 1884, as against 175 in 1883; whilst 154 accounts were closed, as against 125 in the previous year. Singapore.

On the 31st of December last there were 403 accounts open, representing the sum of $71,529, which gives a net increase of nearly $20,000 in the bank.

Since it was first established in 1876, 1,119 accounts have been opened, and $204,483 have been deposited. Of this sum, $45,338 was paid in 1884. The average amount of each deposit was $57.

22. In the Penang branch 99 new accounts were opened in 1884, giving an increase of 16 over the previous year; and $16,709 were paid in, being $6,000 in excess of the deposits in 1883, each deposit averaging $44. At the close of the year 142 accounts were open, with a sum of $16,633 in the bank. Penang.

23. At the new Malacca branch 20 accounts have been opened since the establishment of the bank (July 1883), and on the 31st of December last a sum of $1,674 was standing at the credit of depositors. Each deposit has averaged $27. Malacca.

Education

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Aided schools.

24. The number of pupils presented for examination from the aided schools for boys has risen from 1,626 in 1883 to 1,696 at the 1884 inspection, and the average attendance from 1,858 in 1883 to 1,925 in the past year.

Girls' schools.

25. The number of girls' schools inspected has risen to eight; and an experiment was tried last year to encourage female education by the opening of five Vernacular schools for Malay girls.

Government English schools.

26. The number of pupils in the Government English schools has risen in average attendance from 723 during the year 1883 to 934 during the past year. This large increase in the attendance is principally due to the increased numbers at the Cross Street School, Singapore, and at the branch school in Penang. The attendance at the Malacca High School remains almost the same as in the previous year.

In these English schools 594 pupils were presented for examination in the past year, as against 469 presented in 1883, and the passes obtained by the schools as a whole amount to 81 per cent. of those possible, as compared with 76·3 per cent. the previous year.

Government Malay schools.

27. Again, as in 1883, there is a steady growth in the number of the Malay schools maintained by the Government. In all, 96 Government Vernacular schools were inspected, as against 70 inspected during the year 1883, and the number of pupils presented for examination has risen from 1,887 presented in 1883 to 2,666 presented at the last inspection.

The passes obtained by these schools is in the aggregate 83 per cent. of those possible as compared with 82 per cent. the previous year.

The number of pupils at these schools in "average enrolment" and in "average attendance" each year since 1882, and the enrolment and attendance at the present time, is shown in the following table:—

	Average Enrolment.	Average Attendance.
1882 - - - -	2,230	1,771
1883 - - - -	3,206	2,470
1884 - - - -	4,661	3,683
January 1885 - - -	5,823	4,866

Malay Training College.

The Malay Training College has had, in consequence, to meet a great expansion of its useful work of preparing Malay teachers for these schools, having in the course of 1883 admitted 45 students and passed out 28 certificated teachers.

Population.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

28. The total number of births and deaths registered in the Colony show a small increase over the year 1883, although in Province Wellesley, for some reason which cannot be explained, there is a slight decrease. Births and deaths registered.

29. The following statement gives the numbers registered in each Settlement during the past three years:—

Settlement.	Births.			Deaths.		
	1882.	1883.	1884.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Singapore - -	1,965	2,211	2,640	5,011	4,619	4,922
Penang - - -	1,272	1,428	1,522	3,170	3,354	3,521
Province Wellesley -	1,462	2,759	2,300	2,105	2,774	2,276
Malacca - -	1,893	2,142	2,718	3,911	2,652	2,784
Total - -	6,592	8,540	9,180	14,197	13,399	13,503
	24,312			41,099		

30. As has been explained in previous reports, the ratio of births must always be small as compared with the population, which increases steadily owing mainly to immigration from China and India, the immigrants including a very small number of females, and the disparity between the sexes being consequently very great.

31. The total population of the Colony at the census taken in 1881 was 423,384, and at the end of 1884 it may be estimated to have reached about 484,000. The ratio of births per mille of population (estimated) for the Colony is 18·96, though in Province Wellesley and Malacca, where the Malays predominate, it is considerably higher. Population.

Chinese Immigration.

32. There were 112,069 Chinese immigrants examined on board vessels and in the landing depôts on their arrival at Singapore as against 112,261 in 1883. In Singapore there has been an increase of about 7,000, but in Penang a similar decrease. This is the first year since the records were kept which has not exhibited an increase over the aggregate numbers of the previous year, and the explanation is to be found in the troubles in China, coupled with the low price of tin. Of the whole number, 68,517 landed in Singapore, and 40,480 went on to Penang; the numbers in the previous year being 61,206 and 48,419, respectively. Of the Singapore immigrants, 978 proceeded to Malacca and 2,094 to other places. Immigrants.

33. In Singapore, 9,690 and in Penang 15,181 were admitted into the licensed depôts. The number of immigrants whose passages were unpaid was less by 1,575 than the number in 1883. Unpaid passengers.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Women.

34. The number of women who arrived in the Colony was 3,984, as against 4,259 in the preceding year. Of these, 2,089 landed in Singapore, 1,460 went on to Penang, and 435 to other places.

Contracts to labour.

35. There were 29,088 contracts to labour executed in the Colony as against 31,663 in 1883. Of these, 12,015 were for labour in the Colony and the protected Native States, and 17,073 for labour in other places.

Indian Immigration.

Immigrants arrived.

36. During the year, 1,539 adult Indian immigrants under contract to labour arrived at Penang, besides 177 dependants, being a slight increase over the previous year.

Passengers.

37. The number, however, who arrived as passengers, not under contract to labour in the Colony, shows a very large increase when compared with that for 1883, the numbers being—in 1883, 8,979; in 1884, 14,365.

Returned.

38. The number who returned to India was 10,749.

39. The following table shows the numbers of those who have arrived, under contracts and as free passengers, and also of those who have returned as passengers during the last three years:—

	1882.	1883.	1884.
Arrived:			
Immigrants under contract { Men	1,136	1,156	1,228
Immigrants under contract { Women	316	294	311
	1,452	1,450	1,539
Dependants	209	176	177
Free Passengers	8,276	8,979	14,365
	9,937	10,605	16,081
Returned:			
Free Passengers	5,947	9,041	10,749

Estates, coolies employed.

40. There were nine estates in Province Wellesley employing Indian immigrants in 1884. The numbers employed were, on the 31st December 1884:—

Under contracts according to the Indian Immigration Ordinance	3,582
Not under contracts, according to the Indian Immigration Ordinance	2,008
Total	5,590

or 369 more than in the previous year.

41. The chief cause of complaint on the part of the employers is the large number of desertions that take place every year. Desertions.

42. The health of the immigrants was very good, with the exception perhaps of those on one estate, Caledonia, where diarrhœa and dysentery were rather prevalent. The death rate of immigrants under the Ordinance for all the estates was 1·80 per cent. The total number of deaths was 84, of which 26 were at Caledonia Estate. Health of immigrants. Deaths.

43. A new Indian Immigration Ordinance, repealing Ordinance I. of 1876, was passed, after much correspondence with the Governments of India and Madras, on the 17th October 1884, but was not brought into operation until the 1st January 1885. The Indian Emigration Act (No. V. of 1877), which prohibited the emigration of natives of India to the Straits except under certain stringent conditions, was repealed late in the year, thus leaving emigration from India to the Colony entirely free; and it is anticipated that, with the removal of this restriction, the number of arrivals of Indians in the Colony will soon show a considerable increase. Ordinance V. of 1884.

Trade.

44. The following table gives the values of the imports and exports at the three Settlements, in 1883 and 1884, respectively:— Imports and exports, S.S.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1884.	1883.	1884.	1883.
	$	$	$	$
Singapore - -	79,572,380	79,175,687	65,163,973	68,174,220
Penang - - -	31,345,270	32,235,103	36,001,341	34,182,239
Malacca - -	2,964,937	4,045,986	3,060,803	3,988,482
	113,882,587	115,456,776	104,226,117	106,344,941

It will be seen that our aggregate trade has shrunk from $221,800,000, to $218,100,000, which may, speaking generally, be attributed to the depressed condition of the tin industry and to the reduced proportions of both imports and exports of specie, which were exceptionally large in 1883.

It must be remembered that these trade returns are approximate only, as there is no custom house in the Colony.

45. The entire value of the imports into Singapore shows an increase of about $542,000. The imports from the United Kingdom exhibit a decrease of over $1,300,000, which is principally to be accounted for by the falling off in specie imported. The imports from British Colonies also exhibit the large decrease Imports, Singapore.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

of $1,150,000. The most noticeable feature is the reduced imports from British Burma of rice, cotton, and hides. The imports from foreign countries, on the other hand, give the large increase in value of nearly three million dollars: the countries that contribute most being, in their order, the Malay Peninsula, China, Siam, Belgium, and Netherlands India.

Exports, Singapore.

46. The exports from Singapore show the large falling off in value of $3,010,247. In the exports to the United Kingdom there is a slight increase. In those to British Colonies there is a decrease of about $650,000, chiefly in the exports to British Burma, Mauritius, and British India. To foreign countries the exports exhibit a decrease in value of over $2,350,000, the two most remarkable instances being to Netherlands India, $2,150,000, and to America, nearly $2,000,000. The exports to Netherlands India show decreases in several items; in the case of America amongst other items there is a large decrease in gambier.

Tin—Native States trade.

47. The export of tin shows a decided falling off, amounting to a quarter of a million of dollars. The trade with the Native States continues to increase steadily, the chief items being as usual rice and opium.

Imports, Penang.

48. In the value of imports into Penang there is a decrease of over $800,000. Increases are noticeable in black pepper $371,000, cotton $202,000, and tobacco $195,000, but there were large decreases in tin $1,021,000, specie $354,000, and opium $244,000.

Exports, Penang.

49. The exports from Penang show a large increase in value of nearly $2,000,000. The chief increases were in specie $1,273,000, cotton goods $1,033,000, and rice $491,000. On the other hand, there was a falling off in the following articles: tin (from the Peninsula) $910,000, and tobacco (from East Sumatra) $538,000.

Netherlands India trade.

The increase in Penang trade with Netherlands India (chiefly Sumatra) is worthy of note, showing as it does an increase over 1883 of $707,000 in imports and of $2,861,000 in exports.

Imports, Malacca.

50. The value of imports into Malacca shows a decrease of over a million of dollars, which is to be accounted for by the low price of tapioca and by the fact that a good deal of tin is now exported from Sungei Ujong to Singapore direct instead of through Malacca. The falling off in this latter article amounts to $512,000.

Exports, Malacca.

51. The value of exports from Malacca shows a falling off of $927,000. The remarks made above about tapioca and tin also apply here. The former product gives a decrease of $411,000, and the latter $600,000.

Shipping.

Inwards.

52. The number of vessels, exclusive of native craft, entered at the three ports of the Colony during the year under review was 5,848, with an aggregate tonnage of 3,634,174 tons, and crews numbering 229,740 persons. These figures show an increase over 1883 of 372 vessels, 133,944 tons, and a decrease of 6,694 persons.

53. In Singapore the arrivals numbered 2,951 vessels, with a tonnage of 2,288,118 tons, being an increase over the previous year of 119 vessels. STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. Singapore.

54. In Penang 2,040 vessels entered, with an aggregate tonnage of 1,164,982 tons. The excess over 1883 was 165 vessels. Penang.

55. In Malacca 857 vessels, with a tonnage of 181,074 tons, arrived at the port. The excess over the arrivals in 1883 was 88 vessels. Malacca.

56. The number of vessels, exclusive of native craft, cleared from the three ports of the Colony during 1884 was 5,759, with an aggregate tonnage of 3,576,493 tons, and crews numbering 228,011 persons. The increase over 1883 was 402 vessels, 131,317 tons, and 1,666 persons. Outwards.

57. From Singapore 2,863 vessels cleared, with a tonnage of 2,235,278 tons. The increase over 1883 was 144 vessels. Singapore.

58. The departures from Penang numbered 2,036 vessels, with a tonnage of 1,159,776 tons, being an increase over 1883 of 164 vessels. Penang.

59. From Malacca 860 vessels, with a tonnage of 181,439 tons, cleared, being 94 vessels more than in 1883. Malacca.

60. The number of native craft entered at the three ports of the Colony during 1884 was 9,417, of a tonnage of 266,594 tons, as against 8,344 vessels, with a tonnage of 226,907 in 1883. Native craft. Inwards.

61. The number that cleared out from the Colony was 9,849, of a tonnage of 280,936 tons, as against 9,075 vessels, with a tonnage of 246,817 tons in the previous year. Outwards.

Lighthouses.

62. All the lights have been in good working order during the year.

63. The Penang Harbour light, erected in 1883, was found insufficient for its purpose, and a new Third Order Revolving Light has been erected in its place on an iron flag-staff at Fort Cornwallis; the former light and tower being placed on Pulau Rimau at the entrance to the southern channel of Penang Harbour, where it will be of great service to the numerous small steamers which now ply between Penang and the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra. The work of erecting this light-tower was not completed and the light had not been exhibited at the end of the year. Penang Harbour light.

64. The construction of a lighthouse on Pulau Pisang was commenced late in the year, and a First Order Revolving Light has been ordered in accordance with the recommendations of the Trinity Board. Pulau Pisang.

Public Health.

65. The year 1884 has been a healthy year throughout the Colony. No epidemic of any kind occurred in any of the Settlements. Beri-beri cases, however, still come into the hospitals; General health. Beri-beri.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

in large numbers, and deaths from this disease form a considerable proportion of the total number of deaths recorded.

Number treated.

66. The total number of patients treated in the several hospitals of the Colony was 16,155, of whom 768 were Europeans, and 15,387 natives.

67. The following table shows the total number of patients treated, the deaths, and the average daily sick in each of the Settlements, in 1883 and 1884 :—

Settlement.	Total treated.		Deaths.		Average Daily Sick.	
	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.
Singapore - -	8,619	9,058	654	726	573·22	608·77
Penang - - -	3,722	4,446	423	375	352·23	389·47
Province Wellesley -	1,659	1,353	133	174	90·12	199·60
Malacca - - -	1,214	1,298	165	238	152·03	117·69

Deaths.

The total number of deaths was 1,513, of which 24 occurred among Europeans, and 1,489 among natives. The percentage of deaths to total treated was for Europeans 3·1, and for natives 9·6.

General hospitals, Singapore.

68. The average daily number of sick in the general hospital at Singapore was 24·83 Europeans and 40 natives; there were 18 deaths among the former, and 29 among the latter, 3 of which resulted from hydrophobia, a disease hitherto unknown in the Colony; the per-centages of deaths to total treated were for Europeans 3·6, and for natives 2·2.

Penang.

69. In Penang the average daily number of sick was: Europeans 6·24, natives 29·41; and the deaths were Europeans 6, and natives 24; the per-centages of deaths being for Europeans 4, and for natives 2·9.

Malacca.

70. In Malacca no Europeans were treated in hospital. The average daily number of sick (natives) in the General Hospital was 8·42, and 13 deaths occurred, the per-centage of deaths to total treated being 4·9.

Prison hospitals.

71. The health of the prisoners at each of the Settlements has been remarkably good. The average daily number of prisoners in hospital has been: at Singapore, 11·5, or 1·4 per cent.; of the prisoners at Penang, 2·95, or 1·2 per cent.; and at Malacca 2·5, or 6 per cent. There were 7 deaths at Singapore, and 2 at Penang.

Pauper hospitals, Singapore.

72. In the pauper hospital at Singapore 5,213 patients were treated, the average daily sick being 396·9. The number of deaths was 656 or 12·5 per cent. to the total treated. The deaths were caused chiefly by the following diseases: diarrhœa, beri-beri, phthisis, dropsy, general debility, dysentery and remittent fever. Of beri-beri alone, 232 cases were treated, resulting in 102 deaths.

In a similar hospital at Penang the number of patients treated was 1,875, and the average daily sick was 245. There were 292 deaths during the year, or 15·5 per cent. to the total treated. The deaths resulted chiefly from the same diseases as in Singapore, the number from beri-beri alone being 54. STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. Penang.

74. In the Malacca Pauper Hospital the number treated during the year was 878, of whom 225 died. The average daily number of sick was 102, and the per-centage of deaths to total treated 25·6. This high rate of mortality is due to the increased number of admissions for beri-beri, the patients being, as a rule, only sent to the hospital by their friends when that disease is very far advanced. Malacca.

75. The district hospitals in Province Wellesley have been maintained in a state of efficiency during the year. The total number of patients treated is lower than in 1883. The number of admissions into the four hospitals—at Butterworth, Bertam, Bukit Minyak, and Sungei Bakap—was 1,293, compared with 1,542 in 1883. The number of deaths was 93, or 7·2 per cent. to the total treated. District hospitals, Province Wellesley.

The hospital at Bertam in the north of Province Wellesley has been closed since the 1st of December. An apothecary is, however, still stationed there, and it is used as a vaccine depôt, with a casualty ward attached to it. Bertam Hospital.

The number of Indian immigrants under contract who were received into the Government hospitals in Province Wellesley was 573, and 22 deaths occurred among them. Indian immigrants.

76. The estate hospitals have worked well during the year, and are under efficient supervision. The number of patients admitted to them during the year was 9,863, and the per-centage of deaths was ·85. Estate hospitals.

77. The district hospital, which was opened at Balik Pulau in Penang in July, 1883, has been constantly full. A new ward, generously erected at the cost of Mr. Koh Seang Tat, was opened in March, 1884, but the number of patients increases so rapidly that a further extension is necessary. Balik Pulau.

78. The chief leper asylum for the three Settlements is established at Pulau Jerajah, in Penang Harbour. There are also small establishments at Singapore and Malacca, from which the patients are from time to time transferred to Penang. Leper Asylum.

The number treated at Pulau Jerajah during the year was 204, and the number of deaths was 81. This high death-rate is due to a severe malaria, attended with diarrhœa and dysentery, which appeared in the middle of the year, and which was attributed to a long drought experienced at that time and a growth of jungle near the wards. Arrangements have been made for a larger supply of water, and the jungle has been cleared, and the death rate towards the close of the year steadily decreased and is now small. Two new wards with offices were erected during the year. Pulau Jerajah.

79. The daily average number in the General Lunatic Asylum at Singapore during the year was 150, and the per-centage of Lunatic asylum.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

deaths to the total treated was 11·1. The proportion of cures to admissions was about 60 per cent.

Out-door dispensaries.

80. The work done at the Government Out-door Dispensary in Singapore considerably exceeded that of any previous year, and the institution certainly made fair progress. During the year, 837 patients attended at the dispensary, as compared with 598 in 1883 and 322 in 1882. The dispensary at Penang, which was opened in October, 1883, did not make so much progress during the year as might have been expected. The number of patients who attended was 365, but no doubt this number will increase annually as the advantages of the institution become better known.

Vaccination.

81. Vaccination has been advancing steadily during the year, the number of cases vaccinated showing a considerable increase over the number for 1883, the increase being most marked in Province Wellesley and Malacca.

Quarantine.

82. The quarantine stations have been kept in good order, but there has been little occasion to use them during the year.

Temperature and rainfall.

83. The meteorological returns, which are being kept more completely than before, are under the charge of the head of the medical department. The following statement shows the maximum, minimum, and mean temperature of the air at each of the Settlements during the year:—

——	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
Singapore - - - -	92·5	66·5	81·1
Penang - - - - -	94·5	69·	82·
Province Wellesley - - -	96·5	68·	83·
Malacca - - - -	90·	70·	81·2

Complete returns of rainfall for the whole year were received from 15 stations in the Colony, and three more stations were opened during the year.

The following table shows the total rainfall at each of the Settlements, the maximum and minimum rainfall registered in one month, and the maximum in 24 hours:—

——	Total Rainfall, 1884.	Maximum Fall in one month.	Minimum Fall in one month.	Maximum Fall in 24 hours.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
Singapore - -	80·15 (Mean of 6 Returns)	14·22	2·04	7·10
Penang - -	86·02 (Mean of 4 Returns)	21·66	·39	6·10
Province Wellesley -	80·6 (Mean of 4 Returns)	14·36	·25	4·
Malacca - -	84·11	16·64	2·58	6·11

Police and Crime.

Strength of the force.

84. The police force at the end of 1884 consisted of the following officers and men:—

1	Inspector-General.		
3	Superintendents.		
3	Assistant Superintendents.		
1	Chief Inspector.		
17	Inspectors.		
56	European contingent	(all ranks).	
207	Sikh	do.	do.
1,167	Malay & Kling	do.	do.
1,455	Total.		

European contingent.

85. The only addition to the force during the year was a fresh batch of European constables, recruited from police forces in some of the large towns in England and Scotland by Colonel Dunlop. Although the Acting Inspector-General speaks highly of the men of the European contingent stationed in Singapore, it cannot be admitted that it has fulfilled the expectation formed of it. The detachment in Penang has given considerable trouble, and, though everything that is possible has been done to make the men comfortable, they have been dissatisfied. and one result has been that there were no less than seven desertions during the year, while two more men were dismissed.

Sikhs and Malays.

86. The Sikh and Malay contingents are well spoken of, but the number of offences committed, though slightly less than in 1883, and most of them, it is true, of a trifling character, is still very large indeed.

Cases reported.

87. The number of cases reported to the police during the year was 8,810, or 1,886 less than in 1883. The proportion discovered is the same in the two years, viz., just over 69 per cent.

Arrests.

88. The number of cases in which arrests were made by the police during the year was 20,770, or 503 more than in the previous year.

Murder and gang robbery.

89. The number of serious crimes committed in Penang and Province Wellesley is again very noticeable, 14 cases of murder or manslaughter and 17 of gang robbery having been reported to the police. In Singapore reports were received of 8 cases of murder and 9 of gang robbery.

90. The worst case which has been known for many years happened in May, 1884, when five Malays attacked a *tongkang* (barge) manned by five Chinese off the islands a short distance from Singapore, killing four of them and seriously wounding the fifth. Mainly owing to the assistance of two European pilots, Mr. Davies and Mr. Burroughs, who chased the Malay boat, the murderers were caught, and, having been found guilty at their trial, all five of them were executed.

Secret societies

91. The Chinese secret societies were kept well under control during the year and no serious disturbance was caused by them.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Hackney Carriages.

Hackney carriages. Jinrickshas.

92. The following table gives the number of hackney carriages of different classes registered and licensed in each of the Settlements of the Colony, and of persons licensed as drivers and jinricksha coolies. In Singapore there is a very large increase in the number of jinrickshas, which are light two-wheeled carriages drawn by Chinese coolies, and a decrease in the number of carriages drawn by ponies.

Settlement.	First Class.	Second Class.	Third Class.	Jinrick-shas.	Total.
Singapore - -	19	752	134	2,077	2,982
Penang - -	46	524	397	476	1,443
Malacca - -	—	9	124	44	177
Total - -	65	1,285	655	2,597	4,602

	Drivers.	Jinrics Coolies.
Singapore - - - - -	1,004	2,624
Penang - - - - -	1,313	498
Malacca - - - - -	169	70
Total - - - -	2,486	3,192

Judicial.

Supreme court.

93. The following comparative table of the number of prisoners tried by the Supreme Court in the years 1883 and 1884 shows an increase of 66 in the latter year. The largest increase, it will be seen, is in Singapore, while in Malacca there is a considerable reduction:—

	1883.—No. of Prisoners.				1884.—No. of Prisoners.			
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
Murder - - - - Convicted	3	1	1	5	6	2	—	8
Acquitted	2	6	—	8	1	12	—	13
Do., Attempt - - - Convicted	2	3	—	5	1	1	—	2
Acquitted	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Manslaughter - - - Convicted	—	5	1	6	4	6	—	10
Acquitted	2	1	—	3	1	1	—	2
Grievous hurt - - - Convicted	4	1	4	9	1	6	1	8
Acquitted	1	3	—	4	5	12	—	17
Other offences against the person - - - - Convicted	11	15	1	27	18	25	3	46
Acquitted	3	7	5	15	22	11	5	38
Robbery with violence - - Convicted	7	19	8	4	7	18	1	26
Acquitted	2	19	6	27	20	18	—	38
Theft, housebreaking - - Convicted	48	53	5	106	55	55	3	113
Acquitted	14	15	6	53	35	23	4	62
Other offences against property Convicted	17	1	2	20	9	3	—	12
Acquitted	14	—	—	14	11	5	—	16
Miscellaneous offences - Convicted	9	24	2	35	12	8	1	21
Acquitted	12	29	—	41	11	16	1	28
Total - - Convicted	101	122	24	247	13	124	9	246
Acquitted	51	80	17	148	106	99	10	215
Grand Total - - -	152	202	41	395	219	223	19	461

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Magistrates' courts.

94. The following tabular statement of cases heard and prisoners tried by the magistrates shows that the totals for the whole Colony are very nearly the same as in the previous year. Taking the Settlements separately, however, it will be seen that there has been a large increase in the number of cases heard in Singapore, and a decrease in Penang and Malacca, while in Province Wellesley, where such an extraordinary increase (more than 4,000 cases) was shown in 1883 over 1882, the number has decreased again by more than 3,000 cases, the reduction in the number of cases under the Indian Immigration Ordinance alone being over 1,700, although these cases still form rather more than half of the cases dealt with by the Province Wellesley magistrate :—

Settlement.	1883.		1884.	
	Cases.	Prisoners.	Cases.	Prisoners.
Singapore:—				
Police Magistrate - -	11,238	15,962	14,359	20,563
Marine „ - -	273	345	281	481
Penang:—				
Police - - -	8,402	11,947	7,964	10,979
Marine - -	37	64	53	129
Province Wellesley:—				
Police Magistrate - -	8,448	9,253	5,438	6,218
Malacca:—				
Police Magistrate - -	1,941	2,862	1,465	2,091
Total - - -	30,339	40,433	29,560	40,461

Civil actions.

95. The numbers of civil actions commenced in the Supreme Court, and of cases under $50 heard by the Commissioners of the Courts of Requests, during the past two years, are shown in the following statement :—

	Supreme Court.		Courts of Requests.	
	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.
Singapore - -	1,020	1,231	2,216	3,974
Penang - - -	526	593	3,153	2,986
Province Wellesley -			773	1,014
Malacca - - -	133	188	1,517	1,300
Total - -	1,679	2,012	7,659	9,274

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Here again is to be noticed that the increase in the number of cases is chiefly in Singapore.

Inquests.

96. The number of inquests held during the year 1884, as compared with the previous year, is as follows :—

	1883.	1884.
Singapore - - - -	185	168
Penang - - - -	48	70
Province Wellesley - -	36	46
Malacca - - - -	55	47
Total -	324	331

Prisons.

Daily average.

97. The daily average of criminal prisoners in the three Settlements was 1,123, and of civil prisoners, including those awaiting trial, 99.

Singapore.

98. In the Singapore Criminal Prison, on the 1st January, 1884, there were 861 prisoners in gaol; 3,569 were admitted during the year, and 3,557 were discharged. The total number on the 31st December last was 873, of whom 27 were Europeans.

Daily average.

The daily average of prisoners was 834, as against 877 in the previous year. This amounts to a considerable reduction when the large increase in the immigrant population of the Colony is taken into consideration. All long-sentenced prisoners from Penang and Malacca are sent to Singapore.

Deaths.

During the year only 7 prisoners died (one by suicide) as compared with 27 in the previous year. In no former year has the health of the prisoners been so good.

Prison offences.

There was a decrease, as compared with 1883, in the number of offences against prison discipline in proportion to the daily average of prisoners. The more serious offences punished by caning numbered 19. There were seven cases of assault on prison officers; and of these three were of a serious nature, though happily none resulted fatally. There were two escapes from the civil prison by prisoners awaiting trial.

Penang.

99. In the Penang Prison 1,965 prisoners were committed during the year, of whom 38 were Europeans. The daily average was 248, as against 234 in 1883.

The state of health was very good during the year. Only two prisoners died.

The offences against prison rules punished by caning numbered 29, and there were three cases of assaults. There were no escapes.

100. One hundred and sixty-seven (167) prisoners were committed to the Malacca prison during the year, all being natives. The daily average was 41, as against 34 in 1883. There was one case of assault and no escape.

Nothing could be better than the sanitary state of this prison; no deaths occurred during the year.

(Signed) A. M. SKINNER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Singapore, 30th April 1885.

MALACCA.

No. 22.

Administrator CECIL C. SMITH, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

Government House, Singapore,
June 10, 1885.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit six copies of the Administration Report of the Resident Councillor of Malacca for the year 1884.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL C. SMITH.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby,
&c. &c.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT, MALACCA, 1884.

1. The revenue for 1884 exceeded that of 1883 by $2,020, being $288,186, against $286,166, which is mainly accounted for by the following figures, showing the chief items of increase and decrease:—

	1883.	1884.	Increase.
	$	$	$
Stamps	11,541	12,403	862
Port and harbour dues	980	1,284	304
Postage	1,778	1,855	77
Reimbursements	5,876	8,289	2,413
Miscellaneous receipts	13	296	283
	—	—	3,939

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

MALACCA.

——	1883.	1884.	Decrease.
	$	$	$
Land revenue - - - -	66,772	66,556	216
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court -	3,817	2,758	1,059
Fees of office - - - -	1,775	1,483	292
Special receipts - - - -	1,151	984	167
	—	—	1,734

2. From the succeeding table, the revenue and expenditure for the last six years can be compared :—

——	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1879 - - - -	147,956	162,558
1880 - - - -	181,948	178,052
1881 - - - -	204,858	168,773
1882 - - - -	191,869	224,372
1883 - - - -	286,166	266,020
1884 - - - -	288,186	323,489

3. Statement in detail of the revenue and expenditure for 1884, will be found attached.*

REVENUE DETAILED.

Land.

4. This branch of the revenue, as already recorded, falls short of that realised in the previous year by a little over $200, but it is still, as may be seen by the figures below, about $2,365 better than that of 1882.

——	1882.	1883.	1884.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Premium - - - -	646 64	2,393 60	1,948 00
Rents (current) - - -	49,530 68	50,708 15	52,584 94
Do. (arrears) - - -	3,257 89	4,733 31	1,812 30
Tenths, &c., coral and granite - -	375 90	381 40	393 21
Do. tin - -	350 97	794 12	345 88
Do. brick kilns -	94 80	112 95	244 10
Do. padi - -	1,680 36	1,393 35	2,892 92
Do. wood, oil -	498 99	520 23	496 97
Do. gambier -	1,080 54	797 64	999 31
Do. tapioca - -	3,488 77	1,619 70	1,615 55
Do. fruit - -	480 39	719 25	999 86
Do. timber - -	2,029 64	1,709 77	1,683 00
Do. sand - -	507 87	768 10	598 55
Fees on registration - - -	167 00	121 00	31 50
	64,190 44	66,772 57	66,556 09

5. From the foregoing it will be seen that premium is still low, which may be attributed to the depressed condition of the tapioca

* Not printed.

industry; it would have been better but for the delay, from various causes, in the issue of expected leases.

6. The total of rents (current and arrears) falls somewhat over $1,000 short of that for the preceding year, the current rents, however, being $1,876 in excess, while the arrears show a falling off of $2,921.

7. On this point, it may be observed that the current rents would have shown a further excess on 1883 had it not been for tapioca failures, which have resulted in lands bearing a rental of $2,050 reverting to Government; while the decrease in arrears is to be accounted for by the bulk of those practically recoverable having been already collected, it being probable that, of the balance, a large proportion will ultimately have to be written off. With the weak survey staff at present allotted to this Settlement, there is great difficulty in ascertaining the situation of the lands on which the arrears are due, and a great deal of time is wasted by land officers to very little purpose in endeavouring to find them out. It is, however, possible that, if procedure by summons had been adopted some years ago, the rents would have been recovered, but the then practice was procedure under Act XVI. of 1839, by notice and attachment, which only gives power to recover one year's rent, and there might be nothing on the land, though the lessee might be a man of means with property elsewhere.

8. Tin continues to give a very small contribution to the revenue compared with former times, but after the report of the Rev. J. Tennison-Woods, attention may perhaps be again attracted to mining. The Chinese, however, seem to consider that boring instruments are not altogether trustworthy, though quite ready to avail themselves of the results of European mining experience.

9. The receipts on brick-kilns have increased, owing to an increase in the charge on each burning, which seems to have been needlessly low previously.

10. The receipts on padi, though $1,400 better than in 1883, are still much below the normal figure, owing to unfavourable seasons, a considerable plague of vermin, and the fact that time is still required for a complete recovery from the cattle epidemic which prevailed in previous years.

11. Fruit probably reached its average figure, though I have no doubt but that, if an efficient system of tenths collecting, to which the present staff is inadequate, were started, this item, like other produce, would show much more favourably.

12. I am disposed to the opinion that an efficient collection of tenths would be a powerful agent, in influencing the Malays to take leases, and I have, with that view, directed strict measurements to be made this harvest, in order to ascertain the proportion between a strict valuation and that which has ordinarily been made, as I have some reason to think that the tenths as ordinarily collected, does not reach one half of what it should do.

13. It is not difficult to understand what would seem to be a reflection upon the land department, when it is remembered that

the valuers are clerks who learn the mode of valuing through the Pĕnghûlus, which latter, it is easy to see, can arrange things in a way which can save their *ânak bûah* (*i.e.*, "their belongings") to the detriment of the revenue and to their own advantage.

14. That is one reason, among others, why I have advocated the appointment of district collectors, whose salaries would, I believe, be met by the resulting increase of revenue, but even if they were not altogether met, the advantage to the Malays and to Government of introducing closer relations between them would, I am convinced, be a sufficient justification for its adoption.

Licenses.

15. The revenue under this head, as will be seen below, differs only in the last item from that of the preceding year.

	1883.	1884.
	$	$
Opium - - - -	153,600	153,600
Spirits - - - - -	34,200	34,200
Pawnbrokers - - - -	3,960	3,960
Public-houses - - - -	34	41
	191,794	191,801

STAMP REVENUE.

16. This item of revenue, though it shows an improvement of over $860 over that of 1883, can hardly, in the light of the figures for previous years attached, be held to justify very sanguine anticipations, though I see no reason, under improved circumstances which may in due course be looked for, to doubt of a gradual increase.

	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
	$	$	$	$	$
Commercial - -	4,888	5,450	5,800	5,714	6,223
Judicial - -	6,748	5,568	6,434	5,826	6,179
	11,636	11,018	12,234	11,540	12,402

17. The "Commercial" figures show an advance, no doubt owing to some extent to the appointment of a stamp-vendor in August 1883.

Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Courts.

18. The following are the figures under this head for the last six years :—

—	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Land cases - -	535	1,293	1,166	895	822	274
Fines in other cases, and fees - -	2,858	4,071	4,729	3,308	2,995	2,484
	3,393	5,364	5,895	4,203	3,817	2,758

19. It will be noticed that the first item has steadily diminished; this is no cause for dissatisfaction, unless it were read as an indication of decreased energy in the land office, but this is not the case. It is, in some measure, due to a decrease in offences of this class, in part to a readiness to confirm so-called encroachers in their holdings provided they will accept reasonable terms, and to accept small damages for small injuries.

20. The revenue resulting from the second item must be always fluctuating, and the figures for the year under review, though lower than for some years past, do not therefore call for special remark.

Reimbursements.

21. The various items which form this branch of the revenue are as hereunder, for the past six years :—

—	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Survey fees - -	9,025	4,128	3,390	221	1,337	1,054
Municipal contribution	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,780
Other items -	604	512	1,007	910	939	3,455
	13,229	8,240	7,997	4,731	5,876	8,289

22. Of the first of the above items, I may observe, as I did in my last report, that they may be expected to be more considerable when the survey staff at this Settlement is strengthened to an extent adequate to its requirements.

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23. Of the same item, it may likewise be noticed that the first four years fairly trace the course of the tapioca craze.

24. The small addition to the Municipal contribution is due to their share of the audit expenses of Government in auditing the accounts of the municipality twice a year.

25. As to the "other items," the large excess over preceding years is due to fees in Government schools, amounting to $1,597, which prior to 1884 were remitted by Treasury drafts to the Inspector of Schools at Singapore; and also to $507 received as Rembau contribution to maintenance of Haji Saîl.

Other Items of Revenue.

26. These items, viz., rents, exclusive of lands, port and harbour dues, postage, fees of office, sale of Government property, miscellaneous, and special, produced total sums as under, from 1879 to 1884:—

	$
1879	3,302
1880	4,165
1881	5,679
1882	4,767
1883	6,364
1884	6,373

27. Of the items above referred to, postage continues to show an increase, as evidenced by the succeeding figures:—

	$
1879	791
1880	907
1881	990
1882	1,211
1883	1,778
1884	1,855

While the port and harbour dues, owing to the more strict supervision introduced by the appointment of a harbour master, have made a marked advance as noted hereunder:—

	$
1882	942
1883	980
1884	1,284

Expenditure Detailed.

28. From the comparative table annexed may be gathered the cost of establishments and the chief heads of expenditure for 1881 and the years following :—

	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
	$	$	$	$
Establishments - -	80,656	85,403	92,460	99,551
Pensions - - -	8,215	8,928	7,956	8,391
Education - - -	11,187	12,206	14,210	18,731
Transport - - -	7,359	8,279	9,870	11,118
Works and buildings -	12,085	42,222	62,809	52,371
Roads, streets, and bridges-	22,259	43,953	47,772	64,885
	141,771	200,991	235,077	255,047

Works and Buildings.

29. The following stations were rebuilt in a permanent manner :—Pengkâlan Bâlak, Nyâlas, and Bĕmban.

30. New barracks and inspector's quarters were also erected at Pengkâlan Bâlak.

31. A much-needed new police station for seven police has been constructed at Tranquerah opposite the Gâjah Bêrang road, at a cost, inclusive of out-buildings, of $5,098.45. The purchase of land for the site cost $2,800, the total cost was thus $7,898.45.

32. Special services at the criminal prison were carried out in the shape of the erection of one European warder's quarters, and of a shotdrill shed, and special repairs were effected in the female ward.

33. A room was added to the Resident Councillor's office and connected with it by a covered way. More room was required both for the clerks and the records, and the absence of a waiting-room has proved a decided inconvenience.

34. Twelve vernacular schools were erected, 4 for 60 boys each, and 8 for 40 each, including quarters for the teachers.

35. A new floor was provided for the general hospital.

36. The improvement to the esplanade was about two-thirds completed during 1884 at a cost of $3,188, including chain procured from England. Had it not been for the withdrawal of the convicts, who worked at it for a time, the work would probably have been completed by the end of the year.

37. Special services were carried out at Tanjong Kling, as follows: a substantial and enduring bathing place 100′ by 40′,

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verandahs previously wanting on both sides of the bungalow, and a covered way to the kitchen. Total cost, $2,300.

38. Under the construction of waterworks a steam pumping engine was obtained from Singapore for experimental purposes, the water supply at one time fixed upon having been condemned by the Government analyst.

30. The new high school, one of the works, though not of course competing in size with many others, which reflects as much credit upon the Public Works Department as any in the Colony, was finished.

40. The Pauper and General hospitals at Dûrian Daun, the former with accommodation for about 150 patients, were completed.

41. The demarcation of the Malacca frontier was carried out from Bukit Pûtus to Dusun Kĕpar. While an additional 11 miles of frontier were surveyed, as well as between 69 and 70 miles of road, paths, and connecting lines. It has been expected that the remainder of the frontier to the source of the Kĕsang would have been demarcated by the end of the year, but delays occurred, owing partly to difficulties with the contract surveyor, and partly to a point disputed by Tampin; and it was likewise found that the cost had been under-estimated.

Roads, Streets, and Bridges.

42. Four heavy iron rollers were received at different times of the year, and have proved, as was anticipated, very useful. It is not, indeed, practicable to repair or metal roads to any purpose without them.

43. Two and a quarter miles of road were re-metalled in sections between Kĕtâpang and Sĕrkam in a thorough manner.

44. The road from Gâding to Mâchap was raised over a length of 1,500 feet.

45. At Limbongan the channel of a stream flowing into the sea was straightened to improve the flow, and the mouth protected by groins, aud the sides piled, but the effect has not been what was expected, the mouth having been constantly choked since then. An improved bridge of 15 feet span was thrown across the stream.

46. On the road from Klêbang Bĕsar, a little over 2 miles and 3 furlongs were raised and re-gravelled.

Frontier Roads.

47. Among frontier roads, the road from Sempang Ampat, Naning, the high road to Rĕmbau, has been widened and formed into a cart-road to Jirat Gunjei, our boundary point. Of this, 2 miles is a new trace.

48. The road from Pûlau Sĕbang to the frontier at Dûsun Fĕringgi, a distance of $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles, has been widened and gravelled.

49. A new bridle-path has been opened from Sungei Bhâru to Lûbok Chîna, passing near Râmuan Chîna Bĕsar and Râmuan Chîna Kĕchil, a distance of 5 miles.

50. This is to connect with the road from Lûbok Chîna to Linggi, and so establish communication overland direct between Malacca and Sungei Ujong.

51. The Lûbok Chîna and Linggi road will probably be completed very shortly, when the route to Sungei Ujong will be opened by the old road to Lûbok Chîna, but when the bridle path referred to in para. 49 has been converted into a roadway, which is to be taken in hand this year, the distance will be reduced by at least five miles.

52. The road from Jasin to Châbau has been partly traced, a large swamp at Jasin end has been filled in, and about a mile of roadway formed; this road when completed will be a great convenience to the people of Châbau, &c., as it will save them about five miles in coming to Kĕsang or Malacca, and when the Rĕmbau and Jasin road has been repaired will bring them seven miles nearer. This road will also prove useful in developing the country through which it passes, and whenever Mount Ophir may be opened up, it will be found a great convenience.

53. A small special work was constructed at Pûlau Gadong, near Klêbang Bĕsar, in the shape of sluice-gate, to enable certain padi-lands hitherto deprived of it to get water for purposes of cultivation. This was carried out in such a way as not to injure the lands of others.

54. Considerable improvement is visible in the condition of the roads as a whole, owing not only to the heavy rollers lately brought into use, but also to the systematic side-curving and ditch-clearing carried out under the departmental system, which is displaying a marked superiority to the contract system it superseded.

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.

55. The ensuing figures give the municipal revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1880	22,429	18,899
1881	25,054	21,462
1882	25,444	30,107
1883	27,188	26,465
1884	28,818	26,481

56. They do not show great signs of promise for the future, which indeed, in a place like Malacca, is hardly to be speedily expected, but still a respectable advance may, in due course, be looked for, partly from the waterworks when completed, partly

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from the general advance in prosperity of the Settlement, which may be reasonably expected to result as well under normal conditions as from the opening of road communication with Sungei Ujong and the other inland states adjoining Malacca, which is now being carried out.

57. The greater part of the town drainage scheme, for the execution of which a loan of $25,000 was obtained from Government, has been carried out with satisfactory results, and the opportunity has been taken advantage of in several cases to widen and otherwise improve the streets.

58. The roadways have been much improved in many parts of the town.

59. In addition to that effected by the drainage scheme, sanitary improvement has been attempted by putting a stop to burials close to town, and getting more cemeteries at a distance registered, by restrictions upon pig-styes and slaughter-houses in the denser parts of the town.

LAND.

60. The leases on the rent roll for 1883 and 1884 respectively, will be found below :—

	Number.		Area.		Annual Rent.	
	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.
					$	$
5 years - -	125*	124	505	480	146	140
10 „ - -	384†	376	91,203	89,612	52,513	52,023
15 „ - -	7	7	15	15	6	6
20 „ - -	3,199‡	3,195	12,531	12,515	3,871	3,865
99 „ - -	138	138	319	319	223	223
999 „ - -	203	239§	2,097	2,591	610	850
Certificate of tenure in perpetuity of commuted tenths	91	91	312	312	110	110

* One cancelled in 1884. † Eight cancelled in 1884. ‡ Four cancelled in 1884.
§ Thirty-six issued in 1884.

61. The following are the expired leases for 1883 and 1884 :—

Expired Leases borne on rent roll 1883.	Number.		Area.		Rent.	
	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.
					$	$
5 years - -	122	124	502	480	146	140
10 „ - -	123	117	10,059	9,501	2,714	3,249
15 „ - -	7	7	15	15	6	6
20 „ - -	462	955	1,600	3,533	560	1,301

62. These cases continue to be dealt with as occasion offers, but cannot be so satisfactorily, owing to the weakness of the

survey department, as I stated in my report for 1883, but there seems to be, notwithstanding, no immediate prospect of relief.

63. The gambier and pepper lease question has been decided in a way favourable to the interests of cultivators in this Settlement, maintaining at the same time a due regard for conservative requirements.

64. The following table shows the titles for land issued during the last five years:—

Period of title.	1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
10 years - -	103	28,966	20	13,576	5	4,534	4	572	—	—
„ - -	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
99 „ - -	1	1	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
999 „ - -	15	208	13	246	7	165	3	140	35	491
Certificates -	—	—	—	—	17	85	14	54	1	3
Total -	120	29,181	37	13,828	29	4,784	21	766	36	494

65. The small number of titles issued is an improvement on that shown heretofore, because applications have latterly been taken up systematically in whichever district the surveyor may happen to be on departmental business, and thus a certain number of cases are taken in hand by the Survey Department almost every week.

66. The expenses connected with the issue of a lease are the great objection to it in the eyes of the Malay, who has been accustomed for generations to make a clearing where he pleases without any charge till he gets a crop, and to flit away elsewhere in two or three years if the fancy seizes him.

67. They, many of them, have little or no ready money, and if there were any means of binding them down to remain where they settle, I should be glad to let them off preliminary charges till they have got a crop, but there is unfortunately no means beyond their signing a clearing permit or application paper, which would not probably be worth much; but if they once plant cocoa-nut trees, there is some guarantee for their remaining.

FOREST RESERVES

Bukit Brûang Reserve.

68. The demarcation of the Bukit Brûang reserve was carried out during the year, after a good deal of trouble caused by holdings within the line desired for boundary.

69. The nursery established at this reserve, about 200 yards long by 100 wide, is full 6 miles from town.

70. A shed has been built for protection of seedlings.

71. Quarters for the mandor and a house for the gardeners have been erected.

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72. The following trees have been planted in this nursery:—Pĕtâleng, Tĕmpînes, Pĕnâga, Kĕlat, Rambei Daun, Mĕdang Kûnyet, and Kâyu Hârang.*

Ayer Pânas Reserve.

73. The Ayer Pânas nursery, which lies about a quarter of a mile from the Government bungalow at that place, is situated within the Government reserve, a sloping ground, at the foot of which is a stream; it is about 100 yards long by 40 in width.

74. A cooley shed has been erected on the side of the road leading to Jasin not far from the bungalow.

75. At this nursery, the following trees have been planted in addition to those already mentioned as planted at Bukit Brûang, viz., Tĕmbĕsu,† Kĕmûning, Pûlei,‡ Mĕrĕbau, Bâlau.

76. The weekly average of plants sent to Singapore has been 6,000; the deaths have averaged 4 per cent.

77. The forest overseer has collected everywhere throughout the Settlement, and ebony and other trees were procured from Tanjong Tûan (Cape Rachado).

78. In October a plant collector on a salary of $25 a month was added to the staff, with collectors under him, for the purpose of making a general collection of plants as well as trees throughout the Settlement, but although the forest overseer has also assisted in this work, the collection made so far does not reach the amount expected; it may, however, be anticipated, that after more experience, the work executed will improve both in quantity and quality.

76. Quarters for forest watchmen were put up at Bukit Brûang, Ayre Pânas, Salandar, and Brisu.

80. The other reserves have been inspected with a view to demarcation, and notes have been taken of the holdings found in occupation within their nominal boundary lines.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

81. The value of imports and exports for the last six years will be found in the following figures:—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$
1879	2,718,343	2,770,123
1880	3,317,848	3,634,640
1881	3,664,230	3,919,431
1882	4,082,136	4,074,041
1883	4,046,122	3,983,503
1884	2,964,937	3,060,803

* Ebony.

† Pronounced also Tĕmĕsu, Tĕmbûsu, Tĕmûsu, and Tĕmbĕnsu; the last is asserted to be the most correct form.

‡ A gĕtah producer.

82. The succeeding figures show the values of the chief articles of import and export for the past six years:—

		1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
		$	$	$	$	$	$
Padi and Rice	Imports	525,963	586,688	651,263	768,808	778,311	638,496
	Exports	197,208	197,799	190,668	194,042	172,476	188,564
Tapioca	Imports	14,175	46,495	46,884	99,154	99,569	61,004
	Exports	521,832	844,238	925,748	889,531	973,406	561,491
Tin	Imports	1,140,943	1,164,335	1,512,164	1,670,560	1,830,249	1,317,949
	Exports	1,058,839	1,340,655	1,798,909	1,868,132	1,925,262	1,324,818
Opium	Imports	196,000	179,300	185,575	159,315	179,760	99,000
	Exports	162,000	150,150	146,085	151,354	139,790	74,250
Specie	Imports	572,255	1,003,059	908,680	961,730	743,525	436,677
	Exports	487,131	735,740	586,576	658,178	478,168	589,924
Fish	Imports	8,911	23,129	39,646	42,659	61,218	95,418
	Exports	5,881	5,163	51,961	41,699	37,874	40,531
Fruit	Imports	—	—	—	853	1,494	1,359
	Exports	9,084	5,976	6,716	3,988	4,745	7,038

83. The considerable falling-off on the import side in padi and rice may be attributed to the failure of a number of tapioca manufactories and to some extent to the closing of several tin mines at Bĕting near Kuâla Pîlah, which has resulted in a diminution of the Chinese immigration.

84. To the same cause, owing to the low prices of tapioca ruling during the year, may be attributed the great decrease both in the import and export of that article.

85. The great fall in the import and export of tin was due to a good deal of it being exported from Sungei Ujong direct to Singapore instead of being re-smelted in Malacca, as formerly.

86. The figures for specie, too, show equally the effect of the prevailing depression.

87. The unfavourable figures in respect of opium are accounted for by much of it being shipped direct from Singapore to Sĕlângor and Sungei Ujong, and no longer, as heretofore, shipped first to Malacca and thence to the States mentioned.

88. The increase shown in the figures for fish is merely apparent, being due to greater care in reporting arrivals and furnishing manifests of cargo on the part of native craft, another result of prosecution already referred to.

89. The increase in fruit was due to an improvement in crops, which was apparent chiefly among the dûrians.

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ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

90. The following table shows the tonnage of the vessels which came to and left Malacca, and the countries whence they came and for which they were bound, for the last six years:—

Countries.	1879.		1880.		1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.	
	Tonnage.		Tonnage.		Tonnage.		Tonnage.		Tonnage.		Tonnage.	
	Arrivals.	Departures.	Arrivals.	Departures.	Arrivals.	Departures.	Arrivals.	Departures.	Arrivals.	Departu res	Arrivals.	Departures.
Singapore - -	94,565	76,912	84,111	91,425	103,280	95,152	99,931	97,068	101,732	106,768	91,083	91,897
Penang - -	33,716	46,657	27,390	32,689	26,484	39,143	37,767	42,162	39,306	35,380	39,283	40,056
Malay States -	19,109	24,660	26,292	26,605	32,488	32,741	35,469	37,086	18,689	19,787	31,078	29,764
Sumatra - -	9,914	10,129	7,255	6,756	3,277	3,851	6,877	7,906	5,928	5,316	7,409	6,522
Calcutta - -	33,057	24,084	25,735	18,608	31,318	28,452	25,126	25,054	35,860	34,319	10,715	12,019
United Kingdom -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	295	—	938	—
Other places -	2,145	1,073	6,611	2,930	1,211	30	1,321	461	125	—	568	1,181
Total - -	192,506	186,515	177,394	179,013	198,058	199,369	206,491	209,737	201,935	201,570	181,074	182,439

91. The reduction observable in tonnage is due to the British India line of steamers having ceased to touch at this port.

92. The difference between the number of reports of arrivals and departures among native craft, has, owing to a few prosecutions, been reduced from 61 in the previous year to 5 in 1884.

POSTAL.

93. These figures, as will be seen below, continue to show the same steady increase which has marked them in past years.

Number of Letters.

	1881.	1882.	1883	1884.
Received - -	47,091	55,274	64,918	74,555
Despatched -	34,114	42,124	49,276	56,257

Registered Articles.

——	1882.	1883.	1884.
Received - - - -	1,090	1,449	1,844
Despatched - - - -	762	1,172	2,186

Money Orders (Local).

——	1882.	1883.	1884.
	$	$	$
Issued - - - - -	1,302	1,528	1,621
Paid - - - - -	1,094	1,111	559

Money Orders (India).

——	1883.	1884.
	$	$
Issued - - - - -	307	1,802

94. The fall in orders paid may be due to the amounts being larger than those issued, and to bank drafts being more used in preference to post office orders.

95. The increase in issue of orders for India is due to remittances by the Sikhs in the police force.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

96. The following figures show the number of prisoners brought before the magistrate annually during the last six years, and how they were dealt with :—

——	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Committed to Supreme Court - -	28	22	39	29	39	19
Convicted - -	1,267	1,640	1,168	1,041	1,361	1,110
Ordered to give security	99	174	114	100	96	51
Discharged - -	1,086	998	1,011	1,154	1,315	911
Not decided - -	22	58	11	76	51	23
	2,502	2,892	2,343	2,400	2,862	2,114

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97. The above figures give the lowest returns for 1884 of any of the six years, not excepting 1881, but the proportion of the "convicted" to the "discharged" is higher than in any year since 1880.

98. It is difficult to assign a cause for this with any confidence; it might mean that fewer trumpery cases were brought forward. In 1880, with much larger figures, the same thing is noticeable in a much higher degree.

99. *Supreme Court.—Criminal Cases.*

	1883.	1884.
Number of Cases - - - -	26	19
Convictions - - - -	18	9
Acquittals - - - - -	7	5
Nolle prosequi - - - -	1	5

Convictions.

Offences.	Number of prisoners.		Punishment.							
			Simple imprisonment.		Rigorous imprisonment.		Fine.		—	
	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.
Attempted suicide - -	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Theft, prisoners convicted -	3	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
Mischief by fire - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Culpable homicide - -	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Forgery - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Housebreaking and theft -	3	2	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
Kidnapping - - -	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cheating - - -	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Giving false evidence - -	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Theft - - - -	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Robbery - - -	7	1	—	—	7	1	—	—	—	—
Total - -	19	6	—	—	19	5	—	—	—	1

Civil Cases.

100. The following are the figures for the civil cases for the past two years :—

Number of Cases heard.		Damages involved.		Settled.		Judgment for Defendant.		Damages for Plaintiff.	
1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.	1883.	1884.
133	132	$ 52,483	$ 84,507	37	33	8	11	$ 19,556	$ 48,185

101. There were no bankruptcy cases, two petitions were filed, but not proceeded with.

102. The probate and administration cases numbered 111, involving property to the amount of $36,125, against 161, and $57,750 for the year 1883.

POLICE.

Inspectors.

103. The officers of this rank in charge of the Eastern and Western Divisions continue as heretofore to be constantly on the move throughout their districts.

104. Inspector Kraal, who did not give satisfaction, was replaced by Inspector Timmins, who took charge of the Central Division, and is, like the country officers, Inspectors Ruscoe and Peralta, well reported of.

Sergeant-Majors.

105. One of these officers, Sergeant-Major Dolah, for many years stationed at Mĕrlîmau, was pensioned, and Sergeant Mahmud, also stationed for a long period at Kĕsang, was promoted to fill the vacancy thus caused.

106. The conduct of the sergeants and corporals generally has been satisfactory.

Constables.

107. Of these, 18 belonging to the Malay and Kling contingent, resigned during the year, five were discharged as useless and unfit, 11 were dismissed, and two died, one of diarrhœa, the other met with his death by the accidental bursting of a blunderbuss.

108. Of the Sikh contingent, one was discharged as medically unfit, and two deserted.

109. Two of the Malay and Kling contingent were convicted of theft before the magistrate and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and four week's rigorous imprisonment, respectively, and were dismissed the force.

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110. Four were handed over to the Sĕlângor authorities on a charge of desertion from the force of that State, and their names were struck off the strength of the Malacca force.

111. There were two cases of desertion among the Malay and Kling contingent, being a repetition of the offence by the same man; he got three months' rigorous imprisonment each time, after which he was made to continue serving in order to complete his agreement.

142. Warrants have been issued, but without avail, against the two Sikh deserters.

113. Of the 48 recruits who joined the force in the course of the year, not one can read or write.

114. The Acting Superintendent attributes this unwelcome fact to the lowness of the pay attracting only the class of coolies and cartdrivers, but, I am rather inclined to think that there is nothing to complain of in respect of the pay, and that illiteracy, the normal condition of the country Malay in Malacca, has not yet begun to feel the influence of education. Another generation of school life, however, *i.e*, about five years, will show a very different condition of things.

Sikh Contingent.

115. With the exception of the two desertions already mentioned, this branch of the force continues to give satisfaction, but its numbers are too small, and I should like to see them doubled. It consists of one sergeant, two corporals, and 22 constables.

116. The stations I have already referred to under the head of works and buildings in paras. 29 to 31.

CORONER.

117. The following return shows the number of inquests held by the Superintendent of Police as coroner, during the past two years, with the verdicts given :—

	1883.	1884.
Murder - - - - -	2	2
Homicide - - - -	1	—
Felo-de-se - - - - -	2	1
Accidental deaths - - - -	29	15
Natural causes - - - -	10	23
Open verdicts - - - -	12	6
Total - - -	56	47

118. In the first of the two cases of murder in 1884, which occurred on January 25th on board the s.s. "Benmore," between 8 and 9 p.m., the victim was a respectable Chinaman, the offender was a Sri Mĕnanti Malay, who immediately after stabbing his victim to death, jumped overboard and has never been heard of since. No motive was ever discovered for the crime; the deceased evidently thought him mad, for he was heard to cry out "Orang gîla" (*i.e.*, madman) more than once

119. The second murder was likewise that of a Chinaman, a shopkeeper; it was committed between Nyâlas and Âyĕr Kûning, on the frontiers of Malacca and Johol. The deceased was shot through the heart, as he was driving his cart between 9 and 10 a.m., and his body was afterwards stripped. No clue has yet been obtained to the perpetrator of this crime, but the police are still in hopes of obtaining one.

CHINESE AND MALAY SOCIETIES.

120. The number borne on the registers of the Chinese societies for the last six years, but not the number of actual members (as the names of those who leave are not struck off), will be found below:—

——	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Gi Hin - - -	1,380	1,778	2,549	3,281	4,524	4,786
Do., Macao - -	282	282	344	404	454	454
Gi Bu - - -	556	556	581	592	640	646
Hok Beng - -	1,126	1,126	1,802	2,403	2,751	2,836
Hei San - -	156	357	440	504	559	583
	3,500	4,099	5,716	7,184	8,928	9,035

121. These societies have given no great trouble during the year, though there had been some little friction between the Hok Beng and Gi Bu Kongsis, which was not allowed time to develop.

122. I take this opportunity of repeating the recommendation I made in my last annual report that an officer from the Chinese Protectorate should visit this Settlement much more often than has yet been done.

Malay Societies.

123. The chief police officer is of opinion, from all the information he can obtain, that the flag societies no longer maintain their organization, but are gradually dying out, such effervescence as occasionally appears being due to a few rowdy ex-members acting spontaneously, without any direction from leaders.

124. The little disturbance that has occurred during the past year, may fairly be considered to countenance this view.

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Contagious Diseases Ordinance.

125. The results of the working of the Ordinance for the past two years are as under :—

	Number of inmates on registers.		
	Chinese.	Malay.	Indian.
1883 - - - - -	1,151	—	1
1884 - - - - -	983	—	—

126. It is not likely that registration of the Malays will ever be obtained under the existing law ; any precautions attempted have almost invariably been unsuccessful.

127. It is equally difficult to procure good detectives, or a class of witness from whom trustworthy evidence can be obtained in such cases.

128. The medical examinations were resumed in April, and this, coupled with the decrease in the number of coolies due to the failures in the tapioca industry, may serve to account for the falling off in the number of inmates registered in 1884.

129. Some of the brothels were closed, owing to their unsatisfactory sanitary conditions, and it may be hoped that, before long, further improvements may be effected in their general conditions.

Prisons.

130. The prisoners committed to the criminal prison during the past two years were :—

	1883.	1884.
One month and under - - -	98	86
Two months and under - - -	28	31
Three months and under - - -	29	19
Six months and under - - -	37	24
One year and under - - - -	4	1
Two years and under - - -	5	2
Three years and under - - -	1	2
Four years and under - - -	3	1
Ten years and under - - -	8	1
Life - - - - - -	1	—
Total - - - -	214	167

131. Of the foregoing, for 1884 107 were Chinese, 45 Malays, and 15 Indians, which, according to the census, makes one in 184 for the Chinese, one in 1,500 for the Malays, and one in 129 for

the Indians, against the following proportions for the previous year, viz., Chinese one in 138, Malays one in 1,250, Indians one in 113.

132. Eight long-sentenced prisoners were transferred to Singapore, against 20 in 1883.

133. The daily average number of prisoners was 41·38. The daily average number in hospital was 1·86. There were no deaths.

134. The usual satisfactory conditions were maintained by the Superintendent.

135. There were no escapes.

136. In the civil prison were committed :—

For safe custody - - -	105
For trial - - - -	14
Simple imprisonment - -	16
Debtors - - - -	4
Lunatics - - - -	17
	156

137. Of the 17 lunatics, six were discharged by order of the Magistrate, after being subjected to medical observation, and the balance were transferred to the Lunatic Asylum at Singapore. The year before there were 22 persons brought before the Magistrate as lunatics, 10 of whom were discharged after observation.

138. With the exception of an assault on a European warder by a Chinese prisoner, for which he was sentenced by the Supreme Court to six months' rigorous imprisonment, the offences committed by prisoners in the gaol do not call for comment.

EDUCATION.

139. The average enrolment on the schools of the Settlement from 1879 to 1884, is given in the following table :—

—	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
High School - - Boys	209	242	299	276	275	303
French Mission School—						
St. Francis - Boys	171	173	165	135	101	130
The Convent - Girls	70	80	100	70	95	94
Portuguese Mission School—						
Tranquerah - Boys	44	38	35	32	33	31
Banda Hîlir - Boys	43	37	40	31	32	—
Banda Hîlir - Girls	34	34	33	31	32	32
Malacca Girls' School - -	29	25	18	19	16	18
Vernacular Schools - -	582	637	636	796	1,437	1,706
Total - -	1,182	1,266	1,326	1,390	2,021	2,314

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

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140. The high school has recovered the ground lost in the two previous years, as I anticipated in my report for 1883.

141. The French mission school shows signs of recovery, but is still far from reaching the figures of previous years.

142. The remaining schools, excepting the boys' school at Banda Hîlir, which closed owing to the want of a proper teacher and consequent small attendance, and the vernacular schools, have remained stationary.

143. The vernacular schools have continued to multiply very satisfactorily, though some of them fail to keep their attendance up to a proper proportion to the numbers on the register. This defect has to be met by making the Pĕnghûlus use their influence with the parents, which, as a rule, has the desired effect, the more so since those officers have been given a slight pecuniary interest in the spread of education.

144. Under the present system, there is no means of checking the figures of the attendance book, and no doubt the system generally would, in other ways, work more satisfactorily, if an European officer could have charge of the large number of schools in this Settlement, already more than fifty, and which will, there is no doubt, continue to increase.

Hospitals.

145. The following table shows the number of patients treated in the different hospitals during the year :—

	General Hospital.	Lock Hospital.	Pauper Hospital.	Gaol Hospital.	Leper Shed.	Small-pox Hospital.	Total.
Remained from 1883	6	—	94	1	—	—	101
Admitted in 1884	255	87	784	53	7	—	1,186
Total	261	87	878	54	7	—	1,287
Discharged	239	83	548	54	3	—	927
Absconded	2	—	9	—	—	—	11
Transferred	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Died	13	—	225	—	1	—	239
Total	254	83	782	54	4	—	1,177
Remained at the close of 1884	7	4	96	—	3	—	110
Total	261	87	878	54	7	—	1,287
Per-centage of deaths to total treated	4·98	—	25·62	—	14·28	—	—

146. The high rate of mortality in the Pauper Hospital, 25·62 per cent. against 15·98 for 1883, seems to be due to the number of beri-beri cases which have come into hospital only at too advanced stage of the disease for any treatment to avail; twenty-nine of them in fact died within three days of their admission.

147. It was found, as I anticipated, that a further reduction of the ventilation in the wards was necessary, both above and below. In strong squalls the Bĕrtam sides, which represent walls in these buildings, must certainly be somewhat airy.

148. It is a noticeable fact that, since the hospital was moved to its present site, there have been no cases of gangrene.

149. Opium-smokers admitted into the criminal prison :—

—	Weight on Admission.	Weight on Discharge.	Difference.		How long been a smoker.	Age.	Period of Imprisonment.
			Increase.	Decrease.			
A	96	112	16	—	5 years	32	2 months.
B	103	100	—	3	5 or 6 „	24	7 days.
C	106	115¾	9¾	—	10 „	26	6 weeks.
D	132½	138	5½	—	21 „	43	2 „
E	101	101	—	—	40 „	86	2 „
F	108	101	—	7	16 „	34	2 „
G	105	96	—	9	25 „	57	2 „
H	105½	99	—	6½	31 „	64	2 „
I	80¾	76	—	4¾	36 „	66	2 „
J	107½	108½	1	—	9 „	49	2 „
K	118	116	—	2	10 or 12 „	32	6 „
L	100	101	1	—	20 „	45	2 „
M	112	114	2	—	10 or 12 „	28	1 „
N	117	122	5	—	5 or 6 „	32	3 months.
O	120½	128	7½	—	5 or 6 „	21	4 „
P	125½	148	22½	—	3 or 4 „	37	3 „

150. From the above return, which, the subject it deals with being one justly attracting much attention, I have extracted from the report of the Colonial Surgeon, it will be observed that of the sixteen smokers of opium, nine gained weight, six lost it, and one remained the same.

151. It is to be noticed that, with one exception (K) all those who lost weight were in prison for very short periods, and had been smokers for a long time, while those who underwent the longest sentences had not been smokers so long, and show a very large gain. It will further be observed from the ages column that the former were mostly beyond middle age, and the latter under it, and it might, on the whole, be inferred that, as a rule, opium smokers gain, and do not lose weight from giving up the practice. No opium is allowed to the prisoners.

Lock Hospital.

152. The examinations have been carried on regularly since the opening of the hospital in April, of all nationalities weekly, and of strictly Chinese monthly.

153. The six-monthly inspection of the brothels by the Colonial Surgeon and the Deputy Registrar has resulted, as above stated, in the condemnation of some of them on sanitary grounds.

Vaccination.

154. The returns under this head are satisfactory, showing not only a large increase in the number vaccinated, but in the per-

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

MALACCA.

centage of successful cases; the figures for the last two years are as follows:—

	1883.	1884.
Cases - - - - -	1,750	2,801
Per-centage of successful cases - -	70	87½

General Health of the Settlement.

155. The general health, with the exception of the beri-beri cases, has been satisfactory, there having been no epidemics, though the deaths, 2,784 against 2,652 in 1883, might be considered to show unfavourably, but these are probably to be accounted for by an influx of bad cases from neighbouring states.

156. It is worthy of notice that of these 2,784 deaths, 983 are put down to fever or "dĕmam" the term which amongst the natives includes a variety of ailments, always, however, I believe, of a febrile character.

157. It seems to me that we ought to know a great deal more about this class of illness than we do, and see whether something cannot be done to lower its death-rate.

158. The following table shows the deaths from fever for each month in the year, and reading these figures by the light of the meteorological returns, it will be observed that the figures are highest during the wet immediately succeeding the dry seasons, and during the northerly monsoon; and lowest in the intermediate season.

	Deaths.	Inches of rain.
January - - - - -	78	—
February - - - - -	71	1·03
March - - - - -	83	2·67
April - - - - -	86	4·44
May - - - - - -	86	8·32
June - - - - -	96	15·61
July - - - - - -	79	16·07
August - - - - -	73	10·01
September - - - - -	61	2·69
October - - - - -	72	8·71
November - - - - -	96	8·33
December - - - - -	102	1·97

Births and Deaths.

159. The following figures show the births and deaths for the last four years:—

	Births.	Deaths.
1881 - - - -	2,100	1,244
1882 - - - -	1,896	3,930
1883 - - - -	2,142	2,652
1884 - - - -	2,718	2,784

160. A marked improvement is visible in the births figures, which I attribute chiefly to the exertions of the police, but there is no doubt that still the registration is well below the proper figure. A few prosecutions with exemplary fines would, I agree with the Deputy Registrar, probably have a satisfactory effect on the returns.

161. The death returns are probably more accurate, the increase they show over the 1883 figures has been accounted for in para. 155.

METEOROLOGICAL.

162. The rainfall for the year, at the town observatory, was 84·11, being 7·08 less than in 1883; taking into account the arrear made in 1882, which has not so far been made good, the Malacca stock of water is still about 37 inches below what it should be.

Savings Bank.

163. Twenty accounts have been opened at this bank since it was started in May 1883, and 14 remained on 31st December 1884.

164. No natives, except a few Sikh constables and one Chinese, make deposits, the rest being Europeans and Eurasians; in time, however, it may be hoped that this institution will be better appreciated by the natives, and this result might be furthered by the efforts of present depositors themselves.

165. A statement of the assets and liabilities is attached (*E*).

Malacca Library.

166. This library receives an annual contribution from Government of $500.

167. It was removed during the year to the rest-house at Banda Hîlir.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. — MALACCA.

168. The number of members was 44, of volumes 736, newspaper 17, periodicals 14.

169. The number of visitors has not been taken.

170. The finances are in a satisfactory condition.

Native States.

171. Satisfactory relations have been established with the States surrounding Malacca; advances have been made by Government to the Chiefs with a view to assist in the development of their countries in the first place by the construction of bridle-paths and roads and police stations.

172. What has been done in this direction, so far, is as follows:—

The roadway, originally a bridle-path, from Lubok Chîna to Linggi connecting Malacca and Sungei Ujong by road, is on the point of completion; roadway from our frontier (near Pulau Sĕbang) *viâ* Tampin to Johol well advanced; bridle-path from frontier at Jîrat Gunjei to Pĕnghûlu's house in Rĕmbau 5 miles completed; bridle-path from Bâtang Malâka to Gĕmĕncheh, about 7 miles, well advanced; traces completed and roadway partly made from Johol to Kuâla Pîlah, Kuâla Pîlah to Kuâla Jĕmpol, to Tĕrâche, to Sri Mĕnanti and on to Gûnong Pâsir; trace from Bâtang Malâka to Chĕndras nearly finished.

173. There is plenty of tin near Kuâla Pîlah and also in Gĕmĕncheh, and it is to be hoped that the opening up of communications will be the means of attracting capital to work it.

174. Tin working has already been taken up in two places in Rĕmbau.

175. There is plenty of fine hill country in Johol, Rĕmbau, Sri Mĕnanti, and Jelei, which it would be worth planters' while to inspect.

176. I may conclude by saying, as regards the general prospects of Malacca, that, though depression has been and still is prevailing, which may possibly affect the revenue for a short period, I see no reason at all to anticipate anything but prosperity within a short time.

177. When the land question is taken up thoroughly, as I hope it may be before very long, the land revenue ought to increase very largely, without any difficulty or pressure at all.

178. If all the available padi-land were taken up and cultivated as the Chinese know how to do it, Malacca might be the granary of the Straits.

179. In the depressed state of the sugar industry, it may be hardly worth while mentioning the fact, that Malacca possesses land suitable for the cultivation of the cane, but, it seems not unlikely that there may be a recovery in prices.

180. Malacca likewise has land adapted to the planting of Assam tea and Liberian coffee, and I much wish Europeans would

try these in this Settlement; the facilities of road communications are so great that they form an item not to be dismissed from consideration in undertakings of the kind.

(Signed) D. F. A. HERVEY,
Resident Councillor.

Resident Councillor's Office,
Malacca, 7th April 1885.

Savings Bank, Malacca.

ASSETS.	$	c.	LIABILITIES.	$	c.
Fixed deposit with Chartered Mercantile Bank, Singapore	1,400	00	Amount due depositors -	1,680	64
Interest on the above during 1884 - - -	56	68	Balance in favour of the bank	15	61
Interest on current account -	5	07			
Balance of current account with Chartered Mercantile Bank, Malacca - - -	234	50			
Total - -	1,696	25	Total -	1,696	25

PENANG.

No. 23.

Administrator C. C. SMITH, C.M.G. to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

Government House, Singapore,
May 13, 1885.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit six copies of the Administration Report of the Acting Resident Councillor of Penang for the year 1884.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL C. SMITH.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT, PENANG, 1884.

STATISTICS.

Colonial Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue for the year 1884 shows an increase of $179,204.75 over that of 1883, viz., $1,161,800.41 against $982,595.66.

2. This large increase is chiefly due to the receipt of $156,881.42 on two calls made during the year on the owners of land affected by the Beach Street Reclamation Scheme. This amount cannot be properly viewed as revenue in comparing the financial improvement of the Settlement with the year 1883 or with previous years, but it is satisfactory to find that, even after deducting this amount, fair increments in the chief items of revenue are shown.

3. Land revenue, excluding the $156,881.42 referred to above, shows an increase of $4,251.21 during the year.

4. The continued improvement in the stamp revenue is very marked, the increase over that of 1883 being $6,026.92, and over that of 1882 $11,440.70. It is to be noted, however, that the increase is principally derived from more extended transactions in trade and land, the receipts from the sale of judicial stamps, though showing an increase over 1883 of $937.30, still falling short of the receipts in 1882 by $1,712.30 ; and the receipts from stamps representing fees payable in certain departments showing a decrease of $331.25 as compared with 1883, and $580.75 as compared with 1882.

5. Stamp agencies have been maintained during the year at Balik Pulau, Bayan Lepas, Teluk Ayer Tawar, Permatang Pau, Butterworth, and Bukit Tambun.

6. The total (Colonial) expenditure for the year was $944,141.29 as against $759,883 in 1883, and $558,187.73 in 1882.

7. The principal items of increase were :—

	$
Works and buildings - - -	96,865.74
Salaries - - - -	24,256.68
Roads, streets, and bridges - -	20,241.19
Medical - - - -	11,763.60
Miscellaneous services - -	10,293.76
Education - - - -	8,097.26
Land and houses purchased - -	4,156.25
Transport - - - -	3,074.45
Charitable allowances - -	1,729.00
Gaols - - - -	1,485.18
Lighthouses - - - -	1,212.47

8. Under three headings only is a decrease of expenditure shown, viz:—

	$
(*a.*) Revenue services - - -	1,194.35
(*b.*) Office contingencies - -	579.42
(*c.*) Police - - - -	331.05

9. A statement showing the business transacted by the savings bank since its establishment in 1881 is attached (Appendix *A*)* and is one of great interest. The amount deposited in 1884 was $16,709.09 against $10,344.10 in 1883, and the amount withdrawn $9,095.97 against $6,613.57.

10. In Appendix *B** the comparative statement of revenue and expenditure will be found.

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.

11. The usual annual comparative statement of revenue and expenditure is annexed (Appendix *C*)* showing a balance of $6,050.23 to the credit of the municipal fund at the close of the year.

12. No new works of any importance have been undertaken by the board during the year, but careful preparations have been made for the extension and augmentation of the water supply and for the drainage of important districts of the town on a systematic plan.

13. The streets, roads, and bridges have been maintained in very efficient order.

14. Much attention has been given by the board to the conservancy of the town and of the villages in Penang and Province Wellesley. It is much to be desired that efficient public latrines and urinals could be erected in the more populous portions of the town. Indeed, this is a pressing want, but unless some satisfactory system of cleansing them is devised and adopted, the existing evils will only be augmented by adding public latrines to the present imperfect structures in the larger number of the private houses in the town. The difficulty is to fix up a suitable type of latrine, and as all night-soil must be removed from the town, and not allowed to flow into the drains, some better plan than at present exists for its removal must be sought out. As the several towns in the Colony are much on a par as to situation, all being low-lying, and as the want of public latrines is felt in all of them, I would suggest that the Government should offer a valuable money prize for the best essay on this subject, the essay to be accompanied with plans for latrines both for public places, and for ordinary houses.

* Not printed.

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15. The health officer reports that during the past year "considerable improvements have taken place, or been decided on, "in what may be termed generally, as 'superficial highway "conservancy,' and under this head is included :—

"(*a.*) The widening of roads and preservation of open spaces, "and planting of trees.

"(*b.*) Construction and improvement of surface drainage.

"(*c.*) The watering and sweeping of roads, and collection "and disposal of town refuse.

"(*d.*) The extension and improvement of the water supply.

"(*e.*) Rebuilding, improvement and supervision of markets.

16. "The above have been effected by the municipality and "from the municipal funds.

17. "The Government have been liberal in providing funds "for sanitary and general improvements of a most important "nature.

"(*a.*) First and foremost, the reclamation scheme of the "foreshore has been advanced to such an extent "that acres which were formerly a seething and "reeking surface of excrementitious matter at low "water, have been re-claimed and filled in.

"(*b.*) The Prangin tidal canal, little less objectionable, has "been filled in, and a culvert, which can be kept "clean, constructed.

"(*c.*) Attention has been directed to the source of the "water supply, with a view of preventing con- "tamination of the same through Chinese cultiva- "tion on the hill.

"(*d.*) The preservation of forest land, and re-planting "where necessary, with the view of maintain- "ing the rainfall, and consequently ensuring an "adequate water supply.

18. "In addition to the above, works of an ornamental nature "have been carried out by the Government and municipality for "the improvement of the town.

19. "The more unpleasant duty remains to call attention to "existing defects, and first and foremost, and the one demanding "urgent attention is the disposal of sewerage matters, the larger "portion of which at the present time is got rid of by percolation "into the surface and subsoil.

20. "The continuous pollution of the surface and subsoil by "excreta, without its presence having already manifested itself "in the outbreak of epidemic disease, is, so far, no doubt due to "the water supply being obtained from a distant and uncontami- "nated source.

21. "Assuming that the census for 1881 is a correct one for "the town, the ratio of mortality, considering the small infantile "population, the immunity from epidemics incidental to tropical "towns, and the absence of the types of disease appertaining to

" towns in Europe, is enormously high, and one not much ex-
" ceeded when extensive and fatal epidemics elsewhere occur in
" certain years.

22. " Considerable stress is laid on constant rains and a
" tropical sun acting as powerful agents on organic matters.

23. " Allowing for such, in sparsely populated districts, acting
" as sanitary agents, can the same be depended on in populous
" towns and for a lengthened period ?

24. " Roofs of houses diminish the area of ground exposed to
" the action of both agents, and the same leading the rainfall
" to surface drains lessen the amount of such percolating the
" ground.

25. " It will be generally admitted that no system of under-
" ground sewers is admissible for Georgetown and suburbs, and
" the question arises as to what measures can be taken on a
" general scale for the conservancy of the town, and for the ulti-
" mate disposal of sewerage matters.

26. " I would suggest for consideration :—

" 1stly.—The establishment of public latrines on a general
" scale throughout the town, and erected on a principle that
" would enable the liquid and solid contents to be kept separate
" and easily removed. The dry earth system, or a modification
" of the same, to be used as far as possible.

" 2ndly.—Compulsory reconstruction of all private latrines on
" a specified plan, and subsequent maintenance under due super-
" vision.

" 3rdly.—Organised arrangements for the collection of sewer-
" age matters.

" 4thly.—The ultimate disposal of sewerage, and its utilization
" as a means of revenue, if possible.

27. " Of the above, the principle of construction of a latrine
" for public and private use, suitable for native races, is the most
" pressing. With a model for adoption, the same could be tried
" on a sufficiently extensive scale in brothels, coolie depôts, and
" lodging houses, and arrangements made for the organization
" of the Scavenger Department as required by the first suggestion.

28. " The whole subject is one that would justify Government
" in appointing a special commission for investigation and report.

29. " Much remains to be done for the improvement of surface
" drainage, and also for the drainage of swamps that exist in the
" more central districts of the town, and in rear of inhabited
" streets, notably on either side of Campbell Street, and between
" Kimberley and Magazine roads.

30. " The increasing the water supply from a second source
" namely, Ayer Etam valley, is a matter that should not be
" delayed : the sanitary condition of a native population is in
" inverse ratio to the amount of the same, and where nature has
" provided so bountiful a supply within easy access, the comparative

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" trivial expenditure for its transport and distribution, compared " with its importance, should be the subject of no hesitation.

31. " It is to be hoped that no measures may be taken by the " municipality that will result in the re-opening of old, or con- " struction of new, wells, in the subsoil, with the object of obtaining " water for any purposes whatever, as, under any circumstances, " it is impossible to limit such supplies to purposes not affecting " the health of an ignorant native population.

32. " The closing of the old private markets and reconstruction " of public ones in their place, where proper supervision can be " maintained, is a subject demanding attention, as also the erection " and maintenance of a public abattoir."

33. The debt of the Municipality on the 31st December 1883, was $169,700, and at the close of 1884, $162,500.

Land.

34. Annexed is a comparative statement prepared by the Collector of Land Revenue showing the transactions of his office for the years 1881-84 (Appendix *D*).*

35. This officer reports that " the work of the Department " still suffered from the incompleteness of the contemplated re- " organization of the land and survey schemes, and it was impossi- " ble to deal, except in a few cases, with applications for title, " which numbered 655. The items of revenue—premium, rent, " and reimbursements—consequently suffered. One circuit in " Province Wellesley, however, was dealt with, and 63 lots were " alienated, partly at auction, at an average price of $5.26 per " acre. These were the first cases dealt with under the Provisional " Land Regulations of 15th October 1883, (Government Notifica- " tion No. 515). The upset price was calculated on the basis of " the annual value of padi land in the district, regard being paid to " the varying natural advantages in each case. The rent in every " case was assessed at one tenth of the assessed value per acre. " Besides being a much fairer method of procedure than the old " fixed rate of $3 per acre premium, and 30 or 40 cents quit rent, " the new rule will operate much in favour of the Government. " There is no doubt lands have been leased at much too low rates " hitherto. At the same time it would be the truest policy on the " part of the Government to abolish premium, or purchase money, " altogether, except in the case of town lots, and to charge a " higher rate of rent. A permanent source of income would thus " be substituted for a temporary one, and the lessees would not " be hampered at the outset of their enterprises by the necessity " of finding (generally at heavy interest) sums of money which " are thus lost to the development of their holdings.

36. " The issue of the balance of titles, to the lots falling under " the Beach Street (red line) Agreement, 1869, was proceeded " with and almost completed, there remaining at the close of the

* Not printed.

" year but three still to issue. In all, 181 lots were affected by " the agreement, having an area of 1,114,489½ square feet, from " which a total sum of $55,742.48 was due. Titles to 43 lots " were issued during the year, the receipts being $7,383.25.

37. " Two calls of $100,000 each were issued in respect of the " Beach Street Reclamation Work Reimbursement, and " $155,214.89 received, besides $1,666.53 as interest. Some " friction was caused owing to a misunderstanding as to the " operation of the seventh clause of the agreement, the general " impression amongst the proprietors apparently being that the " payment of the call was optional until the completion of the " work, interest accruing in the meantime at 9 per cent.

38. " The padi harvest at tbe commencement of the year was a " fairly good one for those who had entered on the cultivation of " their fields betimes. The owners of padi lands, however, are " feeling more and more every year the competition of the Pêrak " (Krîan) padi lands, which, besides being in most cases richer, " can be worked at less cost than those in the Settlement.

39. " The Settlement of the Achinese pepper planters at Ara " Kuda, Province Wellesley, continues to flourish. There are now " 180 planters, and 200,000 plants have been planted, of which " 30,000 are in bearing. About 65 piculs of pepper were sold " during the year at from $16 to $18 per picul.

40. " By the extra clerical assistance allowed, some progress " was made in useful work in connexion with the office records, " but much remains to be done. Abstracts of the rent-bearing " titles issued from the commencement of the Settlement were taken " in hand, and all but finished, and the rent rolls will be checked " by the information thus accessible in a handy form. The work " of collecting information as to conveyances of and subdivisions " of title, and present owners, by examination of the registers of " deeds for past years, was proceeded with, and it is hoped by " this means that the rent rolls may soon be made to correctly " represent details of ownership and liability to rent. Their " present inaccuracy is almost entirely due to the neglect in past " years to amend them by the information supplied by the deeds " brought for registration. By a very simple check, this is " guarded against in future. Already a large amount of arrears " of rent have been detected, and collected, by the sure informa- " tion thus obtained."

Post Office.

41. This Department has been in charge of the harbour master during the entire year, and has been worked very satisfactorily.

42. The revenue collected amounted to $22,830.71, and the expenditure to $7,933, showing an increase of $1,713.80 and $596, respectively.

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43. There was a falling off in the postage collections of $452.31, but this is more than accounted for by the loss which resulted from the abolition of collections on Chinese coolies letters.

44. Letters received have increased in number by 12,727, papers by 7,834, parcels by 122, and books by 609. Letters despatched have increased by 10,616, papers by 2,345, parcels by 335, and books by 1,018.

45. Money order transactions show a large increase, more especially with India and the United Kingdom. The present system of sending the advices direct, instead of through the General Post Office, is opening up a considerable money order business between this and the Native States. The money order transactions were as follows, viz. :—

	$		$
United Kingdom - -	6,271	increase	2,436
Local - - -	2,213	,,	144
India - - -	11,517	,,	6,687
China - - -	290	decrease	2
Ceylon - - -	608	increase	422
Native States - -	218	,,	215

showing a total of $21,117, and an advance of $9,614 on last year's business.

46. The Straits Parcel Post was introduced on the 1st February and has proved a great convenience to the residents in this Settlement.

47. The local post offices are highly appreciated, and the returns from them show a large increase in the business transacted. The Tappall runners introduced in 1883 from India did not turn out satisfactorily and they were discontinued, their places being taken by ordinary native postmen.

Chinese Immigration and Emigration.

48. The Assistant Protector of Chinese reports a decrease in the number of Chinese immigrants amounting to 7,673, the number of immigrants being 40,257 as against 47,930 in 1883, and 45,122 in 1882. The war between France and China, and the depressed state of the planting and mining interests during the year, sufficiently accounted for this.

49. Of the 40,257 immigrants only 15,181 were unpaid passengers, and went on arrival into licensed depôts.

50. There was also a decrease in the number of Chinese emigrants, 13,690 in 1884 as against 18,991 in 1883, a decrease of 5,301.

51. Sixteen thousand six hundred and twenty-eight (16,628) contracts for service were entered into at the Chinese Protectorate during the year, 2,285 less than last year.

52. The Chinese secret societies continue to give constant trouble by the serious affrays which are continually taking place between members of different societies. The registrars under the Dangerous Societies Ordinance feel that the ordinary criminal law is far too lenient to deal satisfactorily with the office-bearers and members of these societies. They urge that it should not be overlooked that these men are all aliens, and that the office bearers wield a power over the members for good or evil, such as is unknown to our law. There can be no doubt that in all serious affrays between members of secret societies the office bearers are the moving spirits. All punishments therefore, which do not come home to them are comparatively futile, and the mere levying of fines is more beneficial than otherwise to the headmen, as fresh opportunities are thus given to them for raising contributions from the members. From long experience of the workings of these societies, I am convinced that the only satisfactory solution of the difficulty is to make office bearers responsible for the good conduct of their members, and whilst enforcing our laws against such members of secret societies as openly break them, to punish those who ferment disturbances, or who do not use their power to prevent them. If it were only understood that in every case of a serious affray between members of secret societies the moving spirits would be banished, we should soon break the power for evil of these societies. The danger, to which the peace of this Settlement is hourly exposed will be better understood when the return of registered dangerous societies appended is examined and when it is realised that there are no less than 62,764 registered members of these societies with 404 office-bearers. One of these societies alone numbering 35,754 members.

53. During the year three additional student interpreters (Chinese) have been appointed, and two of the three mentioned in last report have been examined and found qualified for the grade of third class interpreter.

Indian Immigration.

54. The Indian Immigration agent reports that during the year 1,539 adult immigrants under contract arrived, with 177 dependants, viz., 1, 228 males and 311 females. 14,365 passengers not under the Ordinance arrived, whilst 10,749 returned to India.

55. The following comparative table giving the arrivals and departures of natives of India during the last five years shows a steady increase, and the agent anticipates that the change in the

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immigration law will still further increase the number of arrivals, and of those remaining in the Colony :—

Immigrants under the Ordinance.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Arrrivals—					
Males - -	993	729	1,136	1,156	1,228
Females - -	198	150	316	294	311
Dependants -	107	159	209	176	177
Passengers not under the Ordinance -	3,755	5,769	8,276	8,979	14,365
Total - -	5,053	6,807	9,937	10,605	16,081
Departures - -	—	5,269	5,947	9,041	10,749

56. The number of desertions from estates is still serious, as the following table will show :—

——	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Deserted - -	319	414	352	567	586
Arrested - -	174	252	164	213	280
Total - -	145	162	188	354	306

making a total of 1,155 not arrested. From this will be seen the heavy loss the planters of Province Wellesley are subjected to, and the agent believes there is no remedy for it unless the Governments of the Protected Native States take advantage of the power given them by the new law, and obtain their own coolies direct from India. This would result in wages being reduced in the Native States, and the competition for coolies ceasing.

57. The following table gives the percentage of deaths amongst Ordinance coolies for the last five years, and shows a satisfactory improvement in the health of the estates :—

——	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Deaths per cent -	2·32	3·68	2·78	2·10	1·80

57. The annexed statement, compiled by the Indian Immigration Agent, Straits Settlements, affords full particulars of the

numbers, &c. of Indian coolies employed on the several estates in province Wellesley, and condenses the information given by this officer in his Annual Report.

Imports and Exports.

59. The following figures give the declared values of the imports and exports of the last three years :—

	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$
1882 - - - -	23,100,213	26,328,173
1883 - - - -	32,235,103	34,182,239
1884 - - - -	31,345,270	36,001,341

60. The principal articles of import and export in which an increase has taken place, are :—

Imports.

	$
Bullion - - - - -	33,859
Cement - - - - -	32,998
Coals - - - - -	70,646
Cotton goods (coloured) - - -	98,415
Cotton goods (printed) - - -	40,659
Cotton - - - - -	202,203
Copra - - - - -	34,445
Fish, dry and salted - - -	129,426
Grain (padi) - - - -	62,512
Guano - - - - -	40,397
Hides - - - - -	105,945
Lard - - - - -	36,044
Malt liquor - - - -	42,782
Pepper, black - - - -	371,225
Petroleum - - - -	37,692
Rattans - - - -	37,374
Salt - - - - -	50,240
Silk - - - - -	69,240
Tobacco - - - -	195,439

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Exports.

	$
Bullion - - - -	- 59,274
Cotton goods (coloured) -	-1,033,108
Cotton - - - -	- 228,981
Fish, dry and salted - -	- 102,900
Grain (rice) - - -	- 491,847
Hides - - - -	- 49,657
Opium, Benares - -	- 67,847
Pepper, black - - -	- 61,430
Provisions, fresh and salt -	- 338,935
Silk piece goods - -	- 55,692
Specie - - - -	-1,273,686
Swine - - - -	- 32,707
Tapioca flour - - -	- 51,908
Tapioca flake - - -	- 33,214

61. The principal articles of import and export, in which a decrease has taken place, are:—

Imports.

	$
Areca-nuts - - -	- 77,370
Brandy - - - -	- 32,249
Cattle - - - -	- 47,866
Cotton goods (plain) - -	- 175,130
Fireworks - - -	- 35,477
Gutta percha - - -	- 42,505
India rubber - - -	- 64,982
Joss sticks and joss paper -	- 42,281
Machinery - - -	- 46,342
Opium, Benares - -	- 126,398
Opium, Patna - - -	- 117,940
Silk piece goods - -	- 131,934
Specie - - - -	- 354,991
Swine - - - -	- 32,473
Tin - - - -	-1,021,957
Vegetables - - -	- 32,496

Exports.

Areca-nuts - - -	- 78,134
Borneo rubber - - -	- 44,330
Cotton goods (plain) - -	- 30,042
Gutta percha - - -	- 43,360
India rubber - - -	- 134,564
Nutmegs - - -	- 73,766
Pepper, white - - -	- 32,583
Sugar - - - -	- 184,917
Tin - - - -	- 910,811
Tobacco - - -	- 538,441

62. The value of black pepper imported from Sumatra amounted to $2,132,534, and of white pepper to $3,798, or a total increase over 1883 of $340,460.

63. The increase in the imports from and exports to Netherlands India are worthy of note, being for :—

	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$
1883 - - - -	4,426,657	5,692,090
1884 - - - -	5,134,190	8,553,456
Increase - - - -	707,533	2,861,366

64. The heavy fall in the price of tin told seriously against trade with the Native States of the Malayan Peninsula, the imports being $212,969 and the exports $537,743 less than in 1883. The returns, however, show an increase in the quantity of both the imports and exports of tin.

		Imports.	Exports.
		$	$
1883 - -	Piculs	223,673	273,634
1884 - - -	„	233,896	276,665
Increase - - - -		10,223	3,031

65. The usual comparative statement is annexed (Appendix G).*

Shipping and Harbour Department.

66. The harbour master reports an increase of revenue collected amounting to $1,919.27, only one source of revenue falling short, viz., licenses for fishing stakes, and this he attributes to the removal to the northward of the stakes formerly off the Kwala Muda to avoid payment of licenses.

67. The shipping returns show an increase of 4 sailing vessels and 180 steamers outward. The total number of vessels entered was 2,040, tonnage 1,164,987, and the total cleared 2,036, tonnage 1,159,777.

68. The return of native shipping shows an increase both inward and outward. The number of vessels entered was 2,953 of 73,907 tons, and cleared 3,342 of 84,954 tons.

* Not printed.

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69. The Flash Light at Muka Head Lighthouse has worked well during the year. The light is reported to have been seen 40 miles distant. Quarters for married men have been erected, and other improvements made.

70. An iron flag-staff was erected at Fort Cornwallis during the year, and a revolving light was placed at the mainmast head, 107 feet above high water mark, visible at 15 miles distant.

71. The lighthouse with red light formerly at Fort Cornwallis was removed, and re-erected at Pulau Remo. It was lighted for the first time on the 29th of December, and can be seen 6 miles off.

72. The Admiralty re-survey of the harbour and channels has been completed, and the buoys in the South Channel have been, in some instances, shifted, so as to define more accurately this approach to the harbour. An iron beacon has been substituted for the wooden one at No. 7, and during this year Nos. 5 and 6 will also be replaced by iron ones. Iron beacons have also been placed to mark the approaches to the Bukit Tambun and Juru Rivers.

Medical.

73. No severe outbreak of any epidemic disease occurred during the year. Small-pox appeared sporadically, but was of a mild type, and confined principally to the Malay *kampongs*.

74. The colonial surgeons report very favourably of the apothecaries, but great complaints are made of the lack of intelligence, energy, and interest in their work shown by the dressers, and the servants who act as nurses. A better educated class of dressers and properly trained nurses must be obtained before our hospitals can be said to be in a satisfactory condition.

General Hospital.

75. The whole of this hospital has now been in use for more than a year, and amply fulfils its purpose.

76. Proper accommodation for lunatics, and for European female patients, and an increased water supply, will render it complete.

77. There were 150 Europeans treated, 42 of whom were admitted to the officers' wards. 814 cases were treated in the native wards. The majority of the admissions were police cases and cases of accidents, many of these latter being of a very serious nature. There were 6 admissions from alligator bites.

Pauper Hospital.

78. Considerable additions and improvements have been made to this hospital:—

(*a.*) The land to the back and side has been purchased and ample space for necessary extension of wards has thus been obtained.

(*b.*) A ward for females has been erected.
(*c.*) Also a laundry and servants' quarters.
(*d.*) A new mortuary of a good design has also been added.
(*e.*) The swampy state of the compound has to a great extent been remedied by the construction of brick drains communicating with the brick drains outside.

79. The increase in the number of patients demands the erection of another ward. The floors of the old wards require renewal and the water supply should be augmented and re-distributed.

80. During the year, 1,875 patients were under treatment, as many as 324 being in the hospital at one time. One seventh of the whole were suffering from beri-beri.

Leper Hospital.

81. The two new wards under construction last year were completed. 204 patients were treated, and of these 81 died, giving a percentage of 39·70. This high rate was due to the prevalence of malaria with diarrhœa and dysentery during the middle of the year. With the clearing of the jungle around, and attention to the purity of the water supplied, and other sanitary precautions, the death-rate decreased, and the Colonial Surgeon now reports the sanitary condition of the hospital as good.

Gaol Hospital.

82. The buildings have been maintained in efficient order, and have proved more than ample for the largest number of sick on any single occasion.

83. The water supply is good and unlimited.

84. The health of the prisoners has been excellent, only 86 admissions to hospital took place with 2 deaths; the latter were due to disease of a fatal character contracted previous to admission to prison.

Balik Pulau Hospital.

85. During the year 384 were treated, and of this number 366 were admitted.

86. The great majority of the patients were Chinese coolies from the surrounding plantations.

87. In March a new ward, erected at the expense of Mr. Koh Seang Tat, was occupied.

88. In connexion with this hospital, a dispensary was opened in June to meet the requirements of the villagers. It has met with a fair amount of success.

Province Wellesley.

89. The total admissions into the four Government hospitals during the year were 1,293, against 1,542 in 1883, and 2,245 in 1882. The number of deaths was 93, as against 133 in 1883, and

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190 in 1882, or a percentage of deaths to total treated of 7·19 against 8·62 in 1883, and 8·37 in 1882.

90. The hospital in the north of the province at Bertam has been closed. It has now been converted into a vaccination depôt with a casualty ward for police cases and accidents.

91. The estate hospitals were efficiently worked during the year.

Vaccination.

92. Vaccination has been carried on uninterruptedly in both Penang and Province Wellesley during the year.

	Penang.	Province Wellesley.
Number vaccinated - -	2,436	3,583
Number failed - -	734	638

Dr. Hampshire reports that the lymph supplied during 1884 has given results far superior to that hitherto supplied.

Public Dispensary.

93. This institution, opened in October 1883, in Penang Road has been working throughout the year. I regret that it has not as yet obtained the patronage from that portion of the public for whom it is maintained that it deserves, or that was to be expected. The total number of cases treated was only 365.

Education.

94. The Superintendent of Education reports an increase of 26 in the number of vernacular schools in the Settlement during the year. The total number is now 66, 24 in Penang and 42 in Province Wellesley.

95. The number of teachers rose from 61 to 94, of these, 25 have passed through the training college in Singapore. In the case of newly opened schools, every effort is made to secure as teacher a member of some influential family in the village, a passed training student being subsequently appointed to teach the higher standards. There are seven such teachers of newly opened schools at present. The remaining 87 are divided into three classes, viz.:—

10 first class, receiving $10 per mensem and capitation allowance.

52 second class, receiving $7 per mensem and capitation allowance.

25 third class, receiving $5 per mensem.

96. During the year, 27 boys were sent to Singapore to the training college, 14 from Penang and 13 from Province Wellesley. Fifteen passed training students returned from Singapore, and were appointed to assistant teacherships in the Vernacular schools.

97. There are now 27 permanent school buildings in Penang and Province Wellesley, 11 of which have teachers' residences attached to them. Twelve new school buildings were erected during the year.

98. The annual inspections were held in June, and the results obtained compared favourably with those of last year. In Penang the average percentage of passes was:—

1883 - - - -	77 per cent.
1884 - - - -	77 per cent.

In Province Wellesley the average per centage of passes was:—

1883 - - - -	81 per cent.
1884 - - - -	83 per cent.

99. On the first of November a school for Malay girls was started in Kedah Road, Penang Town, at which there are 26 girls enrolled, the average attendance being 24; and on the 1st December a similar school was opened at Bayan Lepas, 12 miles from town, the enrolment for the month being 20 and the average attendance 17.

100. The Malay Home was opened on 1st December with eight boys, five from Penang schools, and three from Province Wellesley. They are at present lodged in the Malay School, Charasta, but it is hoped that the new building for them will be erected in 1886. The amount at present standing to the credit of the fund amounts to $6,502.

101. The Government English Branch School has made a very marked advance during the year.

	1882.	1883.	1884.
Average enrolment - - -	73	128.3	192
Average attendance - - -	54	106.7	162

The average age of the pupils is 11 years; 54 per cent. are Chinese, 36 per cent. Malays, and 10 per cent. East Indians.

102. At the annual inspection of this school 78 boys were presented for examination, and 95 per cent. of passes obtained. The percentage of passes was the same as for last year, but it is to be noted that nearly twice the number of boys were presented, and for the first time boys were examined in Standard III.

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103. A table is annexed (Appendix H)* showing the number of pupils, the income and expenditure, and the cost of instruction of the Government English Branch School and Government Vernacular schools, Penang.

104. At the Free School, the average enrolment for the year was 618 as against 628 in 1883, the average attendance being 495 as against 488. The number of passes obtained was 1,380 ordinary and 46 extra, 70 per cent., as against 1,440 or 72 per cent. in 1883.

105. The Brothers' School shows an average enrolment for the year of 231 as against 248 in 1883. The average attendance being 194, 633 passes were obtained, being a per centage of 89 as against 84 in 1883.

106. Six boys competed for the Government scholarships, two of whom obtained the second and fifth places.

107. St. Maur's Orphanage and Girls' School. The average enrolment in 1884 was 208, and the average attendance 189. The number of passes obtained was 547, being 96 per cent. as compared with 92 per cent. in 1883.

108. The Tamil Mission and Estates schools in Province Wellesley, under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Courtney, show steady improvement, both as regards the number of children in attendance as well as the care taken by the masters in the work of instruction. The number of passes gained at the last examination have exceeded in English by 62 and in Tamil by 98 those of the former year.

109. Of the Bukit Mertajam Chinese School and Orphanage the Superintendant of Education reports favourably.

JUDICIAL.

Supreme Court.

110. The state of the business of the Supreme Court is such that I feel I should be wanting in my duty to the Settlement if I did not bring it specially forward with a view to some remedy. I submit the following extracts from the Penang Registrar's annual report:—

111. "The arrears in the Civil business of the Supreme Court at this Settlement grow more serious year by year. His Excellency Sir Frederick Weld, in a Despatch to the Secretary of State in 1881, characterised them as being even then a disgrace to the Colony. The Secretary of State however decided that unless it could be shown that the work of the Court at Penang could not be kept down by means of more frequent visits by a second judge, the appointment of another judicial officer would not be sanctioned. Accordingly, in reporting upon the state of the Court during 1883, I endeavoured to show that, although the work can be kept down when there are three judges in the Colony, it can only be kept down at the cost of an avoidable expense and delay to the suitor and that when there are not three judges in the Colony the work

* Not printed.

cannot be kept down, and that, as the period during which there are only two judges in the Colony exceeds the period during which there are three judges in the Colony, for the greater part of the time the work cannot be kept down.

112. "When there are three judges in the Colony the delay is great, so that a small cause set down for trial, in November or December for example, may not be reached until the following April or May. But when there are only two judges in the Colony, as was the case in 1884, the delays are of course much greater. The Small Cause Court suffers chiefly from these delays. The Small Cause Court was instituted in 1880, for the purpose of affording a cheap and summary remedy in cases in which the subject matter was under $500, and the Ordinance creating the court (the Civil Procedure Ordinance, 1880, Ordinance VIII. of 1880, sec. 31 *H*) enacts that the court shall be opened at least one day in each week for trials of small causes, except when engaged on criminal business, or when there is no judge available for such sitting. The court in Penang is so frequently engaged on criminal business, that the summary remedy of the Small Cause Court was, immediately before the recent arrival of the Chief Justice in the Colony, available for only one day in four and a half months, instead of for one day in each week. Between the 12th September 1884 and the 29th January 1885 the only day on which there was a sitting of the Small Cause Court was on the 7th of November 1884. Large causes set down for trial in July 1884 and small causes set down for trial in June 1884 were not reached at all in 1884, and are only now, in February 1885, being reached. Suitors never know for months when their cases are coming on for trial.

113. "The work is more than the court as now constituted can dispose of. It has increased year by year until the criminal business has crowded out the civil work. Last year the court was sitting in crime for a period altogether extending over 178 days. One week only intervened between the fifth and sixth assizes. There were at that time 72 actions (28 suits and 44 small causes) down for hearing; of these 5 suits and 4 small causes were disposed of during the week. At the end of the sixth assizes the short vacation of the court was taken, and the year 1884 closed with a list of arrears of 92 cases (35 suits and 57 small causes).

114. "The increase of work seems natural when the increase of the population of the Settlement is considered. In 1877 when, as the Secretary of State points out, the third judge was added to the Bench, the population of Penang and Province Wellesley was about 168,000. It is now probably not less than 240,000. In no other English colony is a single judge found sufficient for the requirements of a population of 240,000 inhabitants. As the judge of Penang has of late years sat continuously throughout the year with the exception of three weeks' vacation at Christmas, the effect of the temporary absence from the Colony of one of the judges is, I submit, not an extra pressure upon the judge at Penang,

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as contemplated by the Secretary of State, as that judge cannot hear more cases than he does ordinarily, his time being always fully occupied. The effect of the delay falls upon the suitors, who are deprived of their prompt remedy, being compelled to await the return of the absent judge. This delay probably deprives many of their remedy altogether, and throws additional expense and great inconvenience upon all.

115. "At first sight it would seem strange that there should be so much pressure upon the court at Penang when there is none at Singapore, but the population of Penang is much larger than that of Singapore, and the character of the population is very different. For the purposes of comparison between the number of cases that actually come before the court at the two Settlements, the annual returns are insufficient, as the number of cases actually tried is not given.

116. "No judicial assistance was available for the court at Penang during 1884. Mr. Justice Ford however came to Penang in March for the purpose of holding a court of appeal. There were four appeals down on the list, but one case only was heard, as the other parties preferred the inconvenience of waiting for another year for the return of the Chief Justice to the inconvenience of going to a court of appeal consisting of only two judges, one of whom had tried the case in the first instance."

117. The following tables show the number of cases during the past three years :—

	1882.	1883.	1884.
Criminal cases - - - -	199	207	223
Civil cases - - - -	473	526	593
Interpleaders - - - -	33	*	*
Ecclesiastical cases - - -	220	250	201
Debtor's summonses and bankruptcy cases	3	7	11
Magistrates' appeals - - -	28	*	*
Crown suits - - - -	25	*	*
Total - - -	981	990	1,028

118. The number of bills of sale registered in the office of the registry has increased regularly since their registration was instituted in 1871, when the number was 498. In the past three years the number has been as follows :—

1882 - - - -	2,359
1883 - - - -	2,698
1884 - - - -	3,214

Magistrates' Courts and Courts of Requests, Penang.

119. The number of cases brought before the Magistrates' Courts was 7,664, and the number of persons charged 10,979.

* Included in civil cases.

This shows a considerable decrease compared with former years. In 1883 there were 8,402 cases, 11,947 persons. In 1882 there were 9,131 cases, 12,909 persons.

120. Of the persons convicted in 1884, there were :—

Fined - - - -	5,418
Sentenced to peremptory imprisonment	464
Whipping - - - -	49
Bound over - - - -	90
Cautioned and discharged - -	753

121. There were 100 cases committed for trial before the Supreme Court, in which 136 persons were implicated.

122. The fines and fees collected during the year amounted to $24,829.99, showing a decrease of $2,904.34 compared with 1883.

123. There were 11 extradition cases, there being four requisitions from Netherlands India, two from British India, four from the Protected Native States, and one from Kĕdah. Of these, six were committed to prison pending the order of the Governor.

124. The First Magistrate presses for the appointment of a cashier, and until some such appointment is made the working of the courts must continue unsatisfactory.

125. One other change is imperatively called for, and that is, to appoint the clerks permanently to these courts, or to so arrange that their promotion shall take place in this department and in that of the Supreme Court only, and not as at present in the general staff of clerks in the Colony. It is hopeless to expect efficiency when the junior clerks are moved from one department of the service to another on every occasion of promotion. The heads of all departments complain of this, but it is especially felt to be injurious in the Magistrates' Courts, Land Office, and Public Works department.

126. The First Magistrate remarks, that although the returns show a considerable decrease in the number of cases, it need not be inferred that there has been a dimunition of crime, for so much depends on the discretion of the police in making arrests. A very large number of cases should never have been brought before the magistrate at all, but until each case is properly inquired into by a superior police officer, the present state of things will continue.

127. He also points out that the state of the law with regard to gambling is very unsatisfactory. In the face of the ruling of the Supreme Court on appeal from magistrate's decisions, the police can hardly expect to obtain convictions in such cases, and meantime common gaming houses flourish, and *wha-whey* (lottery) is carried on to an enormous extent.

128. The country courts continue to be held on alternate Saturdays, with much advantage to the public and police, at Relau and Balik Pulau.

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129. A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure of the Court of Requests during the years 1882, 1883 and 1884, and actions commenced and cases tried, is given in (Appendix *I*).*

Magistrates' Courts and Court of Requests, Province Wellesley.

130. A large decrease is shown in the number of cases and persons brought up for trial during the year. The returns are as follows, viz. :—

		Cases.	Persons.
Tried	1883 -	8,400	9,199
	1884 -	5,438	6,163
	Decrease -	2,962	3,036
Convicted	1883 -	6,108	6,634
	1884 -	4,020	4,466
	Decrease -	2,088	2,168

131. The magistrate reports that this decrease is principally due to the reduction of coolie cases, the convictions in these cases being 1,240 below the previous year. Cases of desertion among Indian coolies were as numerous as before, but there were decreases in the following classes of offiences :—

Offences against person - - -	148
Offences against Gaming House Ordinance	34
Offences against property - -	40
Other offences - - - -	1,019

132. There were 110 persons committed for trial to the Supreme Court, being an increase of 33, of whom 45 were convicted and 27 were for trial in January, 1885.

133. The number of suits in the Court of Requests, which fell considerably in 1883, increased again to the average. In 1883, the number was 773, and in 1884, 1,014, which is slightly above 1882 and below 1881.

Police.

134. This department was, during the whole year, in charge of Superintendent Riccard. The assistant superintendents were Mr. Cuscaden in Penang, and Mr. Falkner in Province Wellesley.

135. During the months of October and November I inspected the force, visiting every station in the Settlement. The native force is in all respects superior to what it has ever been before in my experience. In stations, quarters, and equipment, there is

* Not printed.

nothing better to be desired. The bearing and intelligence of the men have also improved. The only complaint I received was that of overwork, and I find the complaint is well grounded. A very considerable augmentation of the force is required, especially in the island of Penang.

The Sikh contingent has been maintained in efficient discipline. As an armed force they are useful, but to expect from them the satisfactory performance of ordinary police duties in a mixed population, is hopeless.

137. The European contingent has, I regret to say, manifested signs of serious discontent. A considerable number have deserted. After patient inquiry, I could discover no sufficient reason for this, and I can only attribute it to the bad advice given by worthless companions to young men fresh from home, a little homesick, and placed for the first time amongst a strange people, of alien race. They are well-paid, well-housed and clad, and have only eight hours duty in the day. To intelligent and fairly educated young men no better prospects are offered in any Colony. Inspectorships are vacant, and cannot be filled for want of suitable men.

138. The returns of crime show that serious offences against life and property have been of frequent occurrence. The police have, however, been more than usually successful in its detection. It is yearly becoming more and more apparent that this Settlement is becoming the receptable for all the bad characters from the surrounding countries, and to thin our prisons, and preserve life and property, some means of ridding the Colony of such characters is a matter of pressing importance.

139. I omit the account of serious offences usually given in this Annual Report, as it is only a recapitulation of what appears in the report of the Inspector-General of Police.

140. The Chief Police Officer records his thanks to Major Walker, and the officers and men of the Pêrak police for the cordial assistance afforded to him at all times both by day and night.

Public Works.

141. The expenditure on public works last year amounted to $492,179.28, exceeding that of the previous year by $137,222.24, and that of 1882 by $273,353.85. The revenue amounted to $4,423.72 an increase of $3,907.87 over that of 1883, and 3,764.46 over that of 1882.

142. The increase in expenditure is due chiefly to the Reclamation Scheme, on which $133,030.32 has been spent during the year; to the construction and maintenance of Vernacular schools; to the erection of an iron flagstaff in Fort Cornwallis; to the building of a new lighthouse and out-buildings at Pulau Remo; to the Prangin Ditch improvement, which is now approaching completion; and to the expenditure of $30,000 on improvements to the Prye Ferries, including a steam ferry at the mouth of the

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river, and a pontoon bridge at Bagan Srai. Nearly $40,000 more has been spent on the Province Wellesley roads and bridges than in 1883.

143. The satisfactory nature of these works speaks highly in favour of the department which carried them out.

144. In survey, but little has been effected, but with the augmented staff now at the disposal of the Land Department much may be expected.

Forest Operations.

145. The necessity for preserving and extending the hill forests as, among other reasons, a means of encouraging a more abundant rainfall having been for some time pressed on the attention of the Government, it is with pleasure I have to record the establishment of a new department to carry out this object.

146. Work was commenced in the beginning of September, and owing to the personal exertions and great attention of Mr. Curtis, the newly appointed Assistant Superintendent of Forests, he is able to report a very fair amount of work completed.

147. A forest reserve line of about 30 miles has been cut nine feet wide, of which five feet has been cleared of stumps, and the upper side of the slope dug away, so as to make a passable road. This line embraces the whole of the main range of hills from western Ayer Etam to Batu Feringhi.

148. Houses for forest guards have been erected at Tĕluk Bahang, Bukit Penara, and half way up Government Hill, and men have been appointed whose duties are to prevent the destruction of forests above this reserve line.

149. A forest tree nursery and experimental garden has been formed at the seventh mile-stone on Government Hill Road, and plant houses, &c. have been erected.

150. A garden for the planting of colonial products, of about ten acres in extent, has been cleared and laid out close to the waterfall; the ground having been placed at the disposal of Government by the Municipality.

151. And finally a tract of land has been selected in Province Wellesley on which to plant *dedap* trees, for which, owing to the increase in pepper-planting in Province Wellesley, a demand exists, the tree being used to train the pepper vines upon.

152. I am glad also to report that Mr. Curtis has placed his professional advice at the disposal of the Gardens Committee, and it is hoped this will result in making the Dato Kramat Garden a more attractive resort for the public.

Gaols.

153. Appended to this report are statements showing the admissions and disposal of prisoners in the criminal and civil prison during the year (*vide* Appendices *L* and *M*).*

* Not printed.

154. The conduct of the prison staff, both European and native, is reported to have been satisfactory.

155. The daily average number of European criminal prisoners was 5·83 and of natives 242·23. The European prisoners are furnished principally from the army and the mercantile marine. Of the 1,965 native criminal prisoners admitted during the year, 998 were Chinese, 206 Malays, and 723 East Indians; 40 females, viz., 4 Chinese, 6 Malays, and 30 East Indians are included in the above.

156. The conduct of the prisoners in the civil prison is reported to have been good. The daily average number was European ·76, natives 33·63.

157. Two Europeans, 15 male and four female natives were confined for debt.

158. In conclusion, I desire to record the very hearty co-operation I have at all times received from the heads of departments in this Settlement. I have always found them efficient officers and zealous in the discharge of their duties.

(Signed) S. DUNLOP, Colonel,
Acting Resident Councillor.

Penang, 13th March 1885.

LABUAN.

No. 24.

Administrator W. H. TREACHER to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

MY LORD, Labuan, April 25, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book Returns of Labuan for the year 1884.

2. The year was not a prosperous one for the Colony, nor, I believe, for others in the East, although there was a slight increase in the trade, on which the prosperity of the Island depends.

3. *Revenue and Expenditure.*—Allowing for an error in book-keeping by which $600, which should have been placed to the credit of the 1883 accounts, was entered only in 1884 (as referred to in footnote of my 1883 report), the revenue shows a decrease of $2,200, while the expenditure was $642 less than that of 1883.

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The corrected figures for revenue and expenditure are :—

——	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1880 - - - -	28,432	32,223
1881 - - - -	22,948	32,245
1882 - - - -	23,363	21,643
1883 - - - -	24,549	21,722
1884 - - - -	22,346	21,080

From the figures it will be seen that during the last three years the expenditure, owing to the reductions in the police and civil establishments, and to the appointment of Governor remaining unfilled, has been well within the revenue.

The decline in the revenue of 1884, as compared with that of 1883, is due principally to a decrease in all receipts accruing from land and rents, such as land sales, land revenue, transfer and registration duties, and rents, exclusive of land, which headings show a total decrease of $1,454.

Then follows a decrease of $256 in the receipts from fines, forfeitures, and fees, and a decrease of $84 in the revenue contributed by the post office.

The decreases under these important headings suffice to prove that the year was an unprosperous one for the Island.

Further, it will be remembered in my last report I stated, "It "is, however, doubtful whether, owing to exceptional competition, "the rentals obtained" for the revenue farms of opium, tobacco, spirits, fish market, and pawnbroking "are not, with the exception "of that of tobacco, excessive."

This unfortunately has, on the whole, proved to be the case, as the following figures show :—

——	Value at which Farms were let for 1883 and 1884.	Value at which Farms were let for 1885.
		Per annum.
	$	$
Opium - - - -	12,000	8,400
Tobacco - - - -	2,400	2,400
Spirits - - - -	1,440	1,320
Fish Market - - -	2,400	2,220
Pawnbroking - - -	600	600
Total - -	18,840	14,940

a decrease of $3,900.

The sums offered for the "farms" for 1885 being so low, they were only let for one year, but unless some unforeseen source of prosperity presents itself in 1886 I do not think any appreciable increase in their value will be discernible, and it is just possible that the opium farm will decrease slightly in value.

In this connexion I should point out that in 1884 the revenue from the "farms" formed five sixths of the total revenue.

4. *Assets and liabilities.*

The statement furnished me by the Acting Treasurer shows a balance in favour of the Colony on the 31st December 1884 of $12,078, the corresponding figures in 1883 being $10,098. The sum of $23,268.82 due by the late Oriental Coal Company is not included in the return, as its recovery is more than doubtful.

5. *Imports and Exports.*

The following figures, giving the value of the exports and imports of the Colony, show that in 1884, trade, which had fallen greatly in 1883, slightly recovered itself, and this recovery would have been more marked but for the low rates ruling for sago and also for produce destined for the China market (*e.g.*, birds nests and Beche de mèr).

	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$
1880 - -	803,347	791,390
1881 - - - -	874,142	935,541
1882 - - - -	611,105	640,246
1883 - - - -	371,591	393,308
1884 - - - -	407,370	411,555

This increase in the volume and value of the trade is due principally to two causes:—

(1). The increase in the trade from the southern portions of the island of Palawan, over which Spain does not exercise sovereignty, and the chief export from which is rattans of superior quality. The Labuan Chinese-owned steamer which did most of the trade with this portion of Palawan paid one or two visits to Sulu and to North Borneo ports, and the exports and imports by her are returned at $29,814 and $66,736 respectively, as against $6,803 and $20,709 in 1883.

(2). The second cause of the increase is shown by the following figures, giving the value of the Muara coal imported from Messrs.

LABUAN.

Cowies' mines in Brunei and sold to steamers during the last two years:—

——	1883.	1884.
	$	$
Coal imported - - -	16,863	31,761
Coal exported - - -	15,526	34,065

The increases due to these two causes more than account for the slight total increase in the trade, and, therefore, argue a decrease in the volume of trade from other sources, which was owing to a considerable portion of the Sultanate of Brunei having been in rebellion since August 1884, and also to the exceptionally low price ruling for sago flour in Singapore.

For instance, the value of sago flour exported fell to $69,219 against $131,488 in 1883.

On the other hand, the value of Gutta exported reached $62,679. as compared with $32,261 in 1883, but even so it is only a little more than half the value of that exported in 1882, while rattans show in 1882, $51,441; 1883, $34,788; 1884, $74,844; the increase in the latter year being, as already shown, due to the development of the trade with Palawan.

It was thought by some that the establishment of the Sarawak Government in the Baram river would much increase the already existing trade between that district and Labuan, but this has not so far proved to be the case. Returns of produce from Baram for a twelve-months show only birds' nest $150, camphor $530, Gutta $3,770, hides $18, rattans $6,381. Naturally enough the trade of this river follows the Sarawak flag to Sarawak. At the same time, had the Chines traders of Labuan possessed more capital and, perhaps, more energy they might have acquired a much larger share of the Baram trade, which has, owing to the wise administration of the late Mr. C. C. de Crespigny, very largely increased under the rule of Rajah Brooke.

6. I can only repeat my observation on the trade of 1883. "There seems little probability of materially increasing the trade "of the Colony until a firm Government is established in the "territories of the Sultan of Brunei, either by their falling into "the hands of Europeans, as has happened to North Borneo and "Sarawak, or by the Sultan accepting the services of a British "Resident, and following his advice, as in Perak."

7. Labuan is an island producing nothing itself, the coal being no longer worked, and is dependent entirely on its trade, which is derived from Northern Borneo and the adjacent islands. It will never be a great collecting station or emporium, and even now the trade of Sulu and the greater portion of British North

Borneo goes direct past it to Singapore. Most of the trade of the town of Brunei and of its adjacent rivers Limbang, Tamburong, Labu, and others, also goes direct to Singapore in steamers from the port of Brunei, as our traders, under the present Government, do not go there.

The district of Padas and Kalias, which has been recently acquired by the British North Borneo Company, should continue to use Labuan as its port of shipment, and the introduction there of European Government has already resulted in increased trade, which must benefit Labuan.

8. *Legislation.*

The most important legislation was the passing of Ordinance No. IV. of 1884, which, with some slight modification, has been allowed by Her Majesty, and which introduced into the Colony the simple criminal code and criminal procedure in force in the Straits Settlements and North Borneo, which is based on the Indian Penal Code. Previously the criminal law and procedure was that of England, which was frequently found inapplicable to natives and difficult to be administered by untrained magistrates, there being no officer with any legal qualification in the Colony.

Ordinance No. V. attempted to deal with the vexed question of Mahomedan marriages, &c., but the method proposed has not met with your Lordship's approval, and further legislation on the subject will be taken in hand during the next session of the Council.

With the object of assisting the revenue a Stamp Ordinance of the usual character No. VI. of 1884 was passed, and has been confirmed, but in view of the depressed state of trade, and the impoverished condition of the traders, its provisions have not as yet been enforced, nor, for the same reasons, has your Lordship's permission to re-impose the salt duties been availed of.

The chief proclamations issued during the year were those prohibiting for a fixed period the exportation of warlike stores to British North Borneo, Netherlands, India, and the territories of the Sultan of Brunei.

With encouragement from the Local Government, a Company has been formed styled the Labuan Water Company, Limited, with the object of bringing good water into the town of Victoria, which is at present very badly supplied. The scheme having met with your Lordship's approval, legislation for conferring the necessary powers on the Company will be called for during 1885.

9 *General.*

It will be seen from the above remarks that I do not conceive that Labuan, which was established as a Colony in 1846, has any

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considerable future before it, and that its best chance lies in its being incorporated with what remains of Brunei Territory under the British flag.

The health of the Colony during 1884 was fairly good. The total rainfall in 1882 was inches 142·11; in 1883, 167·70; in 1884, 118·85. Of serious crime there was none. Of mining and planting nothing can be said, as nothing is being done. No new public works were undertaken during the year, but, with one or two exceptions, the existing buildings were kept in fair repair, as also were the roads, such as they are, in the town and suburbs. Those leading to Coal Point and the interior, which are now little used, have been allowed to get into a bad state, there being no funds available to keep them up, but some attention is being given to them this year. I personally examined the Free School towards the close of the year and distributed prizes.

The result was as satisfactory as could be expected, seeing that the master, who acts as writer to the Consulate, has frequently to be absent with the Consul General at Brunei. I took advantage of the presence in the island of his Lordship Bishop Hose of Singapore to ask him to inspect the school, and he formed the opinion that it was fairly up to the standard of that class of school in the Straits Settlements.

Being Governor of North Borneo and also acting Consul General in Borneo I had frequently to be absent from the island during the year, and I wish to place on record my appreciation of the assistance rendered me by Mr. A. K. Leys, who, besides being Acting Treasurer, performed the duties of several other departments.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.,
&c. &c.

(Signed) W. H. TREACHER,
Administrator.

P.S.—In my last report I stated that I thought it possible that some error might have crept into the Trade Returns, which might partially account for the small results shown, as compared with previous years. The present Returns prove that such was not the case, as the reason of the increase in 1884 in the value of the trade is fully explained above.

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No. 25.

Administrator A. C. ONSLOW to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

Government House, Perth,
March 28, 1885.

MY LORD,

IN accordance with the Colonial Regulations I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, report on Blue Book for 1884.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALEX. C. ONSLOW.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c.

REPORT on BLUE BOOK for 1884.

From the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY to his Excellency the ADMINISTRATOR.

March 26, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, a report on the Blue Book of Western Australia for the year 1884.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MALCOLM FRASER,
Colonial Secretary.

1.—*Taxes, Duties, Fees, and all other Sources of Revenue.*

With the exception of the fees to be levied under "The Designs and Trade Marks Act, 1884," there was no change in the law with respect to the sources of revenue.

2. *Revenue.*

290,319*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* received in 1884 shows an increase of 5,955*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* over the total receipts of previous year. Land revenue decreased 3,326*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*; but the interest on underdrafts at banks, which amounted to 12,723*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, served to swell an increase on some other items, and to more than make up the deficiency in both customs and land revenue, with the result above stated. The Imperial grant for magistracy and police was further reduced by 1,750*l.*, the amount collected being only 6,500*l.* The items which have increased in the year 1884 over 1883 are licenses, postages and commission on money orders, telegrams, fines, forfeitures, and fees of court, Rottnest establishment, railway receipts,

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refunds, special receipts, interest, miscellaneous, and stamp revenue. The items showing an increment over estimate for the year 1884 are land revenue, licenses, postages and commission on money orders, fines, forfeitures, and fees of court, refunds, special receipts, penalties under Scab Act, and interest.

3. *Expenditure.*

A sum of 291,306*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* was expended, being 50,740*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* over that of previous year. A very large sum was devoted to works and services which may be taken as being of a reproductive nature ; close on 75,000*l.* went in works and buildings, roads and bridges, surveys, and immigration grant. Of the 20,000*l.* apportioned for this last item, 17,069*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* was unspent in 1884. The underdrafts of moneys appropriated exceeded the overdrafts by no less than 21,518*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*

4. *Military Expenditure.*

Return of armed volunteer forces.—2,657*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*, was departmental expenditure for the year. Actual strength, 25 officers and 522 men of all ranks.

5. *Public Debt.*

The total indebtedness of the Colony on loans was 765,000*l.*, for which 37,780*l.* on account of interest and sinking fund was paid during the year.

A Bill was passed by the Legislative Council for a further loan of 525,000*l.* for railways and public works.

6. *Public Works, Railways, and Roads.*

The returns show that 22,267*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* was expended by Works Department on 67 items, as particularised. This from general revenue. Whilst from loans, 163,451*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* was spent in further extension and completion of Eastern Railway, Northern Telegraph Line, Fremantle jetty accommodation, roads, new public offices at Perth, court house at Fremantle, and jetty improvements, Albany.

The Government railways open are :—

	miles	chs.	lks.
Geraldton to Northampton - -	34	20	0
Fremantle to Chidlow's Well -	41	19	77
	75	39	77
From Chidlow's Well to York (will be shortly opened)	48	31	55
Total -	123	71	32

When the line from York to Beverley is constructed, for which tenders have been invited, their total length will be 144 miles 31 chs. 27 lks. ; and besides these there are 42 miles of private railways owned by timber companies.

The grants to district roads boards and municipal councils for repairs and upkeep of main and minor roads and bridges throughout the Colony amounted to 17,095*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*

7. *Population.*

There is an improvement shown here over previous years. The increase by births over deaths is 387 ; by arrivals over departures by sea, 871. Total gain in 1884 is 1,258.

8. *Immigration.*

This was the first year during which persons were introduced into the Colony under the Immigration Act of 1883.

The number of nominations approved by the Board of Immigration was 787 of all ages. The arrivals were 351, between 3rd February and the 23rd of December. It cannot be expected that the arrivals between any fixed periods will balance the nominations, by reason of the facts that some that are nominated decline to embark, and those who decide to are allowed some months to arrange their affairs. The object of the Board was to introduce 500 adults during the year, funds having been provided for such number.

The only immigrants brought into the Colony at public expense were those whose nominations were made and approved as above stated.

9. *Education.*

The average number of children attending at Government schools was 2,241 ; at assisted schools, 926. Total, 3,167.

The cost per head was slightly more than for 1883, making total charges for Government and assisted schools, including increased numbers, 230*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* more than in previous year. Total departmental expenditure for 1884, 10,095*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*

The compulsory clauses of the Elementary Education Act were generally in force throughout the central districts, and officers have been appointed to see that they are carried out.

10. *Imports and Exports.*

The estimated value of imports was 521,167*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* The preponderance in value of imports over exports was doubtlessly affected by the large sum of 163,451*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* spent from loans in the year; as a considerable quantity of imported goods were necessarily purchased and used by those employed on the public works and railway in course of construction, and also from the rails and ironwork for railways (paid for from loans) being included in return of imports, as well as 16,000*l.* in coin, which raised the import returns materially.

The exports are calculated at 405,693*l.* 6*s.*, which is really, under all circumstances, very satisfactory, considering generally trade in staple products was very depressed, that sandal wood was unsaleable and lead ore almost so, and that the take of pearl shells was small and the market very low.

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The amount of sandal wood stored in the Colony waiting for a rising market is very large, amounting to thousands of tons; and the quantity of lead ore which could be quickly raised and shipped, should the price rise to a paying rate, is very large.

11. *Shipping.*

From British or foreign ports, including steamers:—

			Tonnage.
191	vessels entered inwards in	1883 -	186,404
231	„ „	1884 -	227,881
204	„ outwards	1883 -	191,427
211	„ „	1884 -	215,005

showing a marked increase in both numbers of vessels and tonnage.

12. *Criminal Statistics.*

The comparative table does not show the same satisfactory improvement amongst the criminal class as might have been expected; still, viewing it with those of previous years, the results are not discouraging.

13. *Convict Establishment.*

Of all classes there were on the 31st December 1884 only 258 men remaining on the books. Of these only 90 were probation and re-convicted convicts still in prisons.

14. *Agriculture.*

The area of land returned as in cultivation in 1884 is much greater than in 1883.

In 1883 the estimated area was 58,111 acres.
In 1884 „ „ 79,669 „

The stock returns show a considerable increase.

	Total Number.	
	1883.	1884.
Horses - - - -	32,884	37,111
Horned cattle - - -	64,558	71,102
Sheep - - -	1,315,155	1,547,061

15. *Land occupied for Pastoral Purposes.*

At end of 1883 161,347,734 acres were held under lease or license at a rental of 76,843*l.* At the end of 1884 148,550,986 acres were held, for which 76,539*l.* was paid, producing only 304*l.* less for rent. This tends to show that persons who have taken up

these large areas, it may be on speculation, are satisfied with the prospects of turning their holdings to profitable account hereafter.

Land Sales.—39,746 acres of rural land sold should show a continued demand for ground fit for cultivation, and the sales of town lands indicate capital seeking investment.

16. *Legislation.*

The following statutes were passed by the Legislature:—

No. 1.—An Act to confirm the expenditure for the services of the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three, beyond the grants for that year.

No. 2.—An Act to provide for the payment of certain additional and unforeseen expenses in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, over and above the estimates for that year.

No. 3.—An Act to amend "The Land Quarantine Act, 1878."

No. 4.—An Act to declare the terms and conditions applicable to loans authorised to be raised by the Government of Western Australia, and to provide for the creation of West Australian Inscribed Stock.

No. 5.—An Act to regulate the punishment of whipping.

No. 6.—An Act to further provide for the prevention of desertion from any of Her Majesty's ships.

No. 7.—An Act to regulate the registration of designs and trade marks in the Colony of Western Australia.

No. 8.—An Act to further amend "The Customs Ordinance, 1860."

No. 9.—An Act to make provision for bank holidays, and respecting obligations to make payments and do other acts on such bank holidays.

No. 10.—An Act to codify the law relating to bills of exchange, cheques, and promissory notes.

No. 11.—An Act to make it lawful to close up certain portions of streets in the town of York.

No. 12.—An Act to amend the law of newspaper libel, and to provide for the registration of newspaper proprietors.

No. 13.—An Act to simplify the procedure in amending deeds of grant which contain an erroneous description of the boundaries of the land contained therein.

No. 14.—An Act to amend "The Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1880."

No. 15.—An Act to regulate the construction of buildings in Perth and Fremantle, and other towns within the Colony.

No. 16.—An Act to amend "The Cattle Trespass, Fencing, and Impounding Act, 1882."

No. 17.—An Act to vest certain lands belonging to the Albany Mechanics' Institute in new trustees, and to enable the trustees of the said institute to raise money on mortgage of the same.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 18.—An Act to amend "An Ordinance to regulate the Police Benefit Fund."

No. 19.—An Act to extend the provisions of "The Joint Stock Companies Ordinance, 1858," to insurance companies.

No. 20.—An Act for the incorporation of certain office bearers of the Presbyterian Church in the Colony of Western Australia as commissioners for the management of the real and personal estate of the said church, and for other purposes.

No. 21.—An Act to authorise the construction of a railway from Beverley to Albany on the land grant system.

No. 22.—An Act to amend "The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1861."

No. 23.—An Act to appropriate the sum of 247,431*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.* out of the general revenue of the Colony for such services as shall come in course of payment during the year 1885.

Reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon.

An Act to supplement the Governor's salary.

An Act for raising the sum of 525,000*l.* by loan for the construction of certain public works.

An Act to provide for the registration of certain persons who shall be imported into Western Australia or employed in any manner within the territorial dominion thereof, and for certain other matters in connexion therewith.

17. *Miscellaneous.*

The remaining tabular returns included do not demand any special review, though many interesting facts are recorded in them.

18. *Concluding Remarks.*

The year 1884 will probably be in the future esteemed a very important one in the history of the Colony. The passing a Bill for the raising of a large loan for public works, and the successful negotiations completed for the construction of railways on the land grant system, tend to promise a better and more brilliant future for the southern parts of the Colony, whilst the general prosperity and continued successful settlement of the northern and Kimberley districts augurs well for the pastoral interest.

The improved arrangements for coastal and inter-colonial steam services, the construction of the northern telegraph line, and the further construction of the railway into the eastern district, now nearly completed to York, no doubt will facilitate and promote settlement, and it is to be hoped will induce, what is so much required, the introduction of both capital and labour to develop the numerous natural resources of the territory.

(Signed) MALCOLM FRASER,
Perth, 25th March 1885. Colonial Secretary.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

No. 26.

Governor the Right Hon. LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS, G.C.B., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

MY LORD, Sydney, March 9, 1885.

IN previous Despatches I have reported to your Lordship the urgent necessity of introducing certain changes in the Government of Norfolk Island, with a view of improving the social and industrial condition of the inhabitants, and of framing such rules and regulations as are proved to be requisite for the above named purpose.

2. Since the recall of Captain Armstrong, and the abolition of the post of a resident magistrate at Lord Howe Island, Mr. Wilkinson, a highly respectable and intelligent civil officer of this Colony, has been appointed visiting magistrate to that Island every three months. On his last visit he visited also Norfolk Island, with an intention, if possible, of establishing a quarterly steam communication at fixed dates between Lord Howe Island, Norfolk Island, and Sydney.

3. He has been able to make a suitable arrangement, with a merchant here, without any cost to the Norfolk Island funds, and it is expected that the enterprise will fully remunerate the Sydney merchant, and may later prove a good investment.

4. Previous to making this arrangement, Mr. Wilkinson on his last trip visited Norfolk Island, and I gave him a letter to Mr. Nobbs, then chief magistrate. As Mr. Wilkinson was accompanied by an engineer, I requested him to obtain all the information he could in respect of a harbour, or at least of some safe anchorage in the roadstead.

5. I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship copy of a report I have received from Mr. Wilkinson on the general state of affairs at Norfolk Island, as also copy of a report addressed to the Colonial Secretary of Lord Howe Island.

6. Your Lordship will observe that Mr. Wilkinson is of the same opinion as Captain Bridge and other naval officers that except at a very considerable expenditure no safe harbour can be made. I think that the only course to be taken now is to have two moorings with buoys laid down, the one in Emily Bay, the other at the Cascade where vessels could lie with safety. The landing could be at both places improved by the islanders.

7. If the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty would give the necessary buoys and chains for this purpose, their Lordships would confer a great favour on Norfolk Island. Captain Bridge, who is shortly taking the "Espiegle" home, can give all the necessary information with reference to this subject.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

8. Mr. Wilkinson, carrying out my instructions, visited all the Government buildings. I have ascertained that there are a good many houses in the possession of residents in good circumstances which are Government property. Many of these houses are in a dilapidated state. I am of opinion that these houses should be put in suitable repair, and that an annual rent should be paid for them to Government. I will have Government House examined, and an estimate made of what is urgently required. I found it, with some trivial exception, in excellent repair when I visited it in April last. It only required some plaster repairs, but unfortunately there is no plasterer on the Island.

9. In regard to establishing a post office, I have arranged with the Postmaster-General here that "stamps" shall be forwarded to the postmaster at Norfolk Island, for which he will be responsible to this post office, and that the letters, &c. shall, as heretofore, be forwarded to the Sydney Post Office. I shall try to make a similar arrangement with the New Zealand and Victoria Post Offices.

10. Mr. Wilkinson refers to the importance of fresh blood being introduced into Norfolk Island, and there is no one more capable of selecting families from here than Mr. Wilkinson, and I hope that gradually he may be enabled to effect it. I am confident that it can only be done by one residing in Norfolk Island, but having no connexion with it.

11. Your Lordship will see from Mr. Wilkinson's report that he is simply interested in the Island, and that he lately gained the confidence of the inhabitants on the occasion of a rather serious disturbance caused by two religious American teachers, who have been trying to gain over the members of the Anglican Church to their community.

12. He suggests, for the reason given, that there should be an officer acting as a superintendent sent to the Island to assist and support the authority of the magistrate. I consider this suggestion as valuable, for it is impossible for the chief magistrate or any of the elders, who are shut out from the world, to judge and know what is necessary or advisable for the interests of a growing community.

13. I enclose herewith a letter I have received from Mr. Wilkinson, offering his services in the above-named capacity without remuneration, acting as visiting magistrate to Lord Howe Island. I also annex a letter from Mr. Nobbs, late chief magistrate, strongly supporting Mr. Wilkinson's offer. As there would not be time for me to receive your Lordship's sanction before his quarterly visit to Lord Howe Island early in April, I have accepted Mr. Wilkinson's offer of his services *gratuitously* for six months.

14. I consider that his visit there may be conducive to the best interest and future welfare of the Island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c.

233, Macquarie Street, Sydney,
January 27, 1885.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to state for your Excellency's information that I arrived at Norfolk Island on the 14th instant, and at once reported myself to the chief magistrate, Mr. Arthur Quintal, by whom I was most hospitably entertained. In accordance with your Excellency's directions I inquired into the following matters, and have the honour to report on them as follows :—

Harbour at the Island.

At dead low water, low spring tide, in the company of several nautical men, I examined Emily Bay to ascertain if a harbour could be constructed there, and found that a passage about 30 feet wide had been cut through the inner part of the reef giving a depth of 9 feet, but the outer reef, which must be crossed before the inner reef can be reached, showed only a depth of 3 feet 6 inches. On this bar the surf breaks heavily, rendering it quite unsafe, even if there were sufficient depth of water for a vessel to approach it. Emily Bay could be made a safe harbour for small craft drawing not more than 6 feet of water by opening a passage in the outer reef, but owing to the difficulty of entering and leaving it, which could only be done when the wind is directly "aft" in each case, I do not think it will be of use to incur expense in trying to make a harbour of it.

We then inspected the pier to see if an extension of it along the reef would afford protection for anchorage within, but found that at dead low water there would not be more than 4 feet of water to rely on.

I am of opinion that no safe harbour is possible at Sydney Bay, and the only thing vessels can do is to avail themselves of the good anchorage there when the wind is favourable, and to remove to other parts of the coast when adverse winds prevail. For instance, when the wind is from the N. or E. there is safe anchorage at Sydney Bay, but if the wind be southerly the anchorage at "Cascade" must be sought, and in the event of a strong south-easterly wind shelter can only be found at Anson's Bay.

A very commodious harbour could be made at Ball's Bay by making a breakwater across the bay, but the cost of this would be so great as to place it beyond the reach of present circumstances.

The patch of good anchorage ground at Sydney Bay is limited to about four acres, and there is a consequent difficulty in finding it. This could be obviated by placing two beacons on Nepean Island, and two on the mainland to mark the exact spot.

Government Buildings.

These were all visited by me. I found that Government House is in very bad repair, many of the walls are damp and discoloured, the verandahs broken, and some of the window shutters off their

NORFOLK ISLAND.

hinges. To place it in decent order the ceiling of the verandah should be renewed, the roof repaired, the walls coloured, and the woodwork painted. Nearly all of the Government houses are more or less out of repair, except that occupied by Mr. John Buffet which has been well cared for. That occupied by Mr. Joseph Quintal is in a very bad state; and although I believe the chief magistrate has for some time ordered him to repair it, nothing has been done. I believe that as the man is very poor the magistrate has allowed him six months longer to make the repairs. The Government House, lately occupied by the chaplain, is still in the occupation of Mrs. Nobbs, his widow.

School.

I visited the school, and was much pleased with the orderly and cleanly state of the children; the general appearance of everything spoke of good management and order. There are now 104 pupils attending this school, all of whom were present at the time of my visit.

Artificers.

The only artificers who seem to be wanted on the Island are a brickmaker, a plasterer, and a saddler and shoemaker, if the two latter trades could be carried on by one man.

Regular communication with Sydney.

On the 15th instant, the Chief Magistrate called a meeting of the people, at which I strongly urged the advantages of, and the necessity for, regular communication with Sydney. The result was that at an adjourned meeting on the following day, which was attended by nearly all the male adults, it was decided that they would in future keep their trade for a vessel which should make its first trip from Sydney to Norfolk Island at the end of April next. It was also agreed that two gentlemen, Messrs. Francis and Charles Nobbs, who will visit Sydney in March, should confer with the trading merchant and inform him as to the stores required, and the produce likely to be ready for market.

I have subsequently made similar arrangements with the people of Lord Howe Island, so that it may be considered as a settled thing that quarterly communication with Norfolk Island, will in future be carried out, provided that the people keep faith with the merchant by doing all they can to raise sufficient produce to warrant him in continuing the undertaking.

A good effect of these meetings has been the arousing of these people from their lethargy, and stimulating them to energy in the cultivation of their land, &c. If this feeling can be kept up in them, it will be the beginning of a new era of prosperity for Norfolk Island.

Land.

So far as my limited time would allow, I inquired into, and inspected the land on the island, and find that there are approximately about 4,000 acres occupied by the people of the community, about 1,020 acres belonging to the "Mission," and about 3,500 acres unoccupied. Of the 4,000 acres occupied, I believe that less than 200 acres are under cultivation.

This, allowing that there are 125 males over the age of 14 years, shows only 1·6 acres cultivated by each male.

The accompanying map*, which I have tinted, shows the land belonging to the "Mission," that occupied by the Islanders, and the unoccupied land which could be available for fresh settlement, except some of the higher and rougher parts of Mount Pitt, which would not be of any considerable extent.

Post Office.

It is submitted that there can be no difficulty about establishing a post office on the place already suggested. Stamps, forms, &c., could be supplied by the Government printer, and forwarded to Norfolk Island on the first opportunity. I would, however, respectfully recommend that the office of postmaster should be a permanent one, rather than as at present, attached to the temporary office of magistrate.

Introduction of New Families.

This is a matter of great importance, and should be taken in hand as soon as matters are in a more settled state on the Island. Many of the Islanders are very much in favour of having new settlers on the land, but I have met with a few who do not appear to favour the idea. But if the matter is not soon looked to, the effect will be disastrous to the mental and physical condition of the people, who seem all to be nearly related to each other. Dr. Metcalf assures me that the evil effects of close intermarriage are already beginning to show themselves.

Library.

There is no such institution on the Island, but the young men of the place have formed themselves into a club for mutual improvement, and I am of opinion that if a collection of discarded books from our own Free Library were made, and this augmented by private donations, together with maps and publications from Government Departments, and sent to them, this club could be converted into a School of Arts on the lines of such institutions in New South Wales, and could be managed by the young men forming the present club.

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* Not received.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

Population.

The following was the state of the population at the commencement of the present year.

Norfolk Island Community.

	Males.	Females.
Married couples - - - -	69	69
Widows and widowers - - -	6	8
Above the age of fourteen - -	50	47
Under this age - - - -	104	119
Strangers - - - - -	6	3
Total - - -	235	246 = 481

Melanesian Mission.

Clergy and wives - - -	8—3	
Lay-member, bailiff and wives -	2—2	
Mechanic, matron, assistant and servants - - - -	1—4	
Children - - - -	8—3	
Scholars from different Islands, not settled - - - -	120—30	
	139—42	= 181
Total population - -		662

General State and Prospects of the Island.

I regret to state that the present condition of society on the Island is very unsatisfactory, and is a matter for very serious consideration. Owing to the unsuitability of the laws and regulations to their present condition, together with the fact that the people are so closely related to each other, the magistrates find that they have no controlling influence over the people, and their power is simply nominal. This is particularly unfortunate at the present time, when the relations between certain sections of the people are of a strained character.

Some six months ago two strangers landed, who for some time lived quietly with the people, attending their church with them, and were to all appearance quiet and well-disposed. After a time,

however, they assumed the leadership of a small number of the people in the character of Evangelists, since when they have gradually taken an insulting and over-bearing attitude. Eventually their arrogance reached such a pitch, and their public insults become so gross, as to culminate in a serious breach of the peace on New Year's Day, since which time I am informed the condition of the people has been unquiet and threatening. Moreover, the action of these Evangelists has resulted in the breaking up of peaceable families, and in several cases of religious mania. While there I did all I could to bring matters into a quiet state. I succeeded to a great extent, and when I left I had assurances of order from both sides. But it is impossible to conjecture how long this may last, as a serious rupture may at any time take place.

The people seem to be all well disposed and anxious to do what is right, but they are like a ship without a rudder, wanting in a guiding power. During my stay, they came around and seemed as it were to appeal to me as to someone who could supply this, for they evidently feel the want of some one to lead them.

They are now turning their attention to further develop the agricultural resources of the island, but this may be but a temporary result of the spur which my visit has given them, and it becomes matter for consideration how best this present desire for work can be fostered and made permanent.

Having in view the following facts :—1st. The present unquiet state of the people ; 2nd. The weakness of controlling power by the magistrates; 3rd. The impotency of their present laws and regulations; 4th. The necessity for continued excitement to industry now that the work has been begun ; I feel constrained to make the following suggestions, respectfully asking for your Excellency's consideration of them, viz. : that an officer acting as a superintendent should be sent to the Island for, say, six months, to support the authority of the magistrates, not, however, to interfere with their present form of government, but to assist in every way in the maintenance of order, in restoring the good feeling of the people, and in stimulating an industrious spirit amongst them. This, I feel sure, is what they most want at this critical time to ensure their future welfare, and it is also the freely expressed opinion of all the leading men of the community, who begged of me to respectfully urge the matter very strongly for your Excellency's consideration.

Should such an officer be sent he could be instructed to take time to inquire into and make a full detailed report to your Excellency of everything connected with the welfare of the place. Also it might be desirable for him to unite with the magistrates and some of the older and leading men of the community in collecting and furnishing data, and suggestions forwarded thereon, by which your Excellency may be enabled to amend and frame

NORFOLK ISLAND.

such laws and regulations as shall place matters on a firm footing, and ensure the permanent prosperity of the place.

These are matters which I submit cannot be gone into during a flying visit of a few days, but require considerable time for observation and calm thought to properly work out.

I left the Island on the morning of the 18th instant, having spent four days ashore.

Before closing this report, permit me to express my indebtedness and thanks to Mr. Quintall, the Chief Magistrate, to Mr. F. Nobbs, the late magistrate, and other gentlemen, for their hospitality and assistance to me during my visit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY WILKINSON.

His Excellency the Right Hon.
Lord Augustus Loftus, P.C., G.C.B.

Mr. WILKINSON to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Department of Mines,
January 29, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that I returned from a visit to Lord Howe Island on the 26th instant.

I found everything there peaceable and quiet, and although the weather had been unusually dry, and the annual crop of onions a partial failure, the other crops of maize, coffee, arrowroot, oranges, &c., promise well.

The people are still keeping up an industrious spirit, and are in a fair way to prosperity. This would, however, be further encouraged if they had some definite security of tenure for the land they occupy and cultivate.

Having had to visit Norfolk Island this time, I made arrangements with the people of that Island to trade with Sydney; and a vessel will leave here for that purpose in April next, calling at Lord Howe Island to trade there also and bring the produce to Sydney. This is an important matter, for it is found that it will not pay a vessel to trade with Lord Howe Island alone, but by taking that Island in connexion with Norfolk Island it is believed that a good trade may be done and regular communication with Sydney and both these islands carried out.

Without a regular means of sending their produce to market, it is obvious that the industry of the people in cultivating the land would be unremunerative, but now that there is every prospect of a regular trade being done, we may look for still further improvement in this respect.

The schoolmaster reported that the school is being well attended, and that the progress of the pupils is satisfactory. NORFOLK ISLAND.

The health of the people is good. There had been no births nor deaths since my last visit.

I have, &c.

The Hon. (Signed) HENRY WILKINSON,
The Colonial Secretary. Visiting Magistrate.

Mr. WILKINSON to the PRIVATE SECRETARY.

233, Macquarie Street,
MY DEAR MR. UNWIN, March 5, 1885.

YOU will perhaps remember that I told you of a conversation I had with Mr. Nobbs about the necessity for some one, who is not of the community, being sent to look after Norfolk Island.

I have privately spoken to the permanent head of our department, and he says that His Excellency can have the loan of my services for three, six, or even 12 months if it should be his pleasure to send me there; that is to say, that I could go there and still receive my salary from the New South Wales Government, so that if His Excellency will honour me by accepting my services for Norfolk Island, they will cost him nothing.

My idea is, if I should go, to join with the magistrate and some of the elders in collecting such data as shall be useful to His Excellency in framing suitable laws. In fact to go thoroughly into the affairs connected with the place and to furnish the Governor with full information regarding everything. This can only be done by a prolonged stay on the place, and I can keep order until His Excellency has time to make permanent arrangements.

While I was there I was much taken with the place and the people, and if I can do anything to further their interests or conduce to their permanent prosperity I am anxious to do it.

Will you kindly communicate my remarks to His Excellency and learn his views on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY WILKINSON.

H. A. Unwin, Esq.

Mr. NOBBS to LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

MY LORD, Sydney, March 5, 1885.

HAVING had a long conversation with Mr. Wilkinson about Norfolk Island affairs, and during our meeting he showed me a letter he had written to your Excellency about the necessity of some one independent of the community to reside on the Island for a certain period, to work in conjunction with the magistrates and furnishing information by which your Lordship may construct the laws of the Island to meet the requirements of the community, which I may say is now in a state of transition, and in consequence

NORFOLK ISLAND.

of which the old code of laws seem to me inadequate to meet the wants of the increasing population, I fully endorse Mr. Wilkinson's opinion on the subject, and shall be glad, if your Lordship sends him, to render any assistance I may be able. The necessity of something of this kind must be my excuse for urging the matter so strongly on your Lordship's attention.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Right Hon. (Signed) F. M. NOBBS.
Lord Augustus Loftus, G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.
Sydney

NORFOLK ISLAND.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

No. 27.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G., to Governor the Right Hon. LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS, G.C.B.

MY LORD, Downing Street, May 11, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch of the 9th of March* respecting the affairs of Norfolk Island.

I notice with pleasure the liberality of the department in New South Wales to which Mr. Wilkinson belongs in allowing him to continue to draw his salary for a certain period while he is engaged on subjects connected with the Island, and I approve of your action in accepting the services of that officer gratuitously for six months.

I look forward to learning that early steps have been taken for the introduction of fresh blood into the community, and I shall be glad to receive any proposals which Mr. Wilkinson may be enabled to make with the view of bringing the laws and regulations of the Island into more complete harmony with the growing wants of its inhabitants.

I view with satisfaction the establishment of steam communication between Sydney, Lord Howe Island, and Norfolk Island, and I hope shortly to be able to inform you of the result of a communication which I have caused to be addressed to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in order to ascertain if it should be in their Lordships' power to supply buoys and chains for mooring purposes at the spots indicated in your Despatch.

I have, &c.

Lord Augustus Loftus. (Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 26.

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PAPERS

RELATING TO

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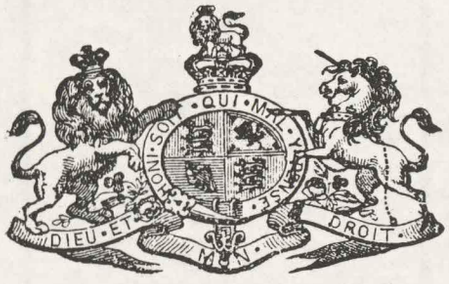
REPORTS FOR 1883, 1884, AND 1885.

(*In continuation of* [C.–4583.] *of August* 1885.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1886.



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1886.

[C.—4842.]

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MAURITIUS.

SEYCHELLES AND RODRIGUES.

No. 1.

Governor Sir J. POPE HENNESSY, K.C.M.G., to Colonel the Right Hon. F. A. STANLEY, M.P.

Government House, Mauritius,
October 10, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose the Annual Reports on Seychelles and Rodrigues for the year 1883.

2. It was through an oversight that these reports did not accompany the Blue Book for 1883.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSY.

The Right Hon.
F. A. Stanley, M.P.,
&c. &c.

ANNUAL REPORT on the SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK RETURNS for 1883.

Government House, Seychelles,
March 27, 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit my Annual Report upon the Blue Book Returns for the year 1883.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR BARKLY,
Chief Civil Commissioner.

His Excellency
Governor Sir John Pope Hennessy, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The gross receipts in 1883 amounted to Rs. 139,887 32 and the net revenue to Rs. 121,834 11.

The aggregate payments made during the year were Rs. 141,590 41 against Rs. 148,563 last year, and those exclusive of matters of account Rs. 123,838 21, the estimated expenditure being Rs. 134,589.

MAURITIUS.

SEYCHELLES AND RODRIGUES.

These figures exhibit a considerable decrease as compared with those of 1882, the net receipts showing a falling off of no less than Rs. 15,801 34. The expenditure, however, was likewise reduced, and the payments, exclusive of matters of account, were less by Rs. 2,590 57 than those of 1882.

The net revenue fell short of the estimated amount, Rs. 140,400, by the relatively large sum of Rs. 18,565 89.

The failure of the revenue in 1883 is chiefly attributable to the effect of the quarantines which existed during the greater part of the year (throughout which the Messageries Maritimes Company's steamers would ship little or no cargo for this port), and to the general depression resulting from the outbreak of epidemic disease which occurred about the middle of the year, and lasted until its close.

The items which showed the greatest decrease were customs, rum permits, registration, and fines and fees of court. The taxes were well paid, the local rate bringing in Rs. 21,890 15, only Rs. 109 85 below the estimated amount.

Exports and Imports.

The exports, exclusive of specie, amounted to Rs. 307,682, or Rs. 27,713 over those of 1882, the excess being mainly due to the increased export of vanilla and cloves.

The export of cocoanut oil in 1883 was 247,673 gallons ; 4,656 gallons below that of the previous year. It does not follow from this diminution, however, that the produce was less, and I believe this not to have been by any means the case. The export was checked by the quarantine and took place chiefly by sailing vessels to Mauritius; the result of which was that a considerable amount of oil remained on hand at the end of 1883, which will be exported in the course of this year. A good deal of cocoanut oil is of course used for home consumption, and a certain quantity has been employed of late in the manufacture of soap, a factory for this purpose having been established by a French gentleman, Mr. Guerard, who makes soap from the oil of a very serviceable quality.

The price of oil showed an improvement of 20 per cent. as compared with 1882.

The export of vanilla amounted to 2,776 kilos, of which 302 kilos went to Mauritius, 1,825 kilos to France, and 649 kilos to London; the value of the whole being Rs. 38,864.

The amount of cloves exported was unprecedentedly large, amounting to 21,115 kilos, of the estimated value of Rs. 10,133 ; 13,391 kilos of this product were sent to France, 3,859 kilos to Mauritius, 3,756 kilos to London, and 109 kilos to Réunion. 17,068 gallons of sperm oil were exported to London during the year.

It was to be expected that the imports (from which alone direct profit is derived by the revenue) would have shown a proportionate increase, and such would no doubt have been the case had

the importation not been so greatly checked by the effects of the quarantine. As it was numerous consignments of goods expected by the local traders, both from Europe and Mauritius, failed to arrive, and the imports fell to Rs. 288,653, or Rs. 32,033 below those of the year before. Should no untoward events occur during the present year, however, much of this loss will no doubt be made up before its close. Indeed, notwithstanding the period of difficulty and depression through which the Dependency has lately been passing, there is, in my opinion, little cause for apprehension as to the future of the Seychelles finances. The resources of these Islands are so great that economy and patience alone are required to restore matters to a satisfactory condition, and the revenue will, I feel assured, very soon again reach its average amount.

Specie.

Rs. 16,280 in specie were exported, and Rs. 13,930 imported, during 1883.

Shipping.

Inclusive of mail steamers, 41 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 64,989 tons entered Port Victoria during the year.

The vessels clearing from the port numbered 44, with an aggregate tonnage of 63,886 tons.

The number of men-of-war visiting the port was 12, of which 6 were British, 5 French, and 1 American.

Population and Vital Statistics.

The birth rate per thousand was 31·0, somewhat lower than usual. The still-births were more numerous than the year before, the per-centage being 8·8 as compared with 6.9.

There were 156 marriages in 1883 against 85 in 1882, a marked improvement, which, I believe, is mainly due to the exertions made by the ministers of religion to put a stop to the practice of concubinage formerly so general amongst the lower order.

Owing to the epidemic prevailing during the latter portion of the year, the death-rate was of course unusually high, reaching 26·3 per 1,000. That of the year before was 21·6.

Education.

The progress of education during the year was very satisfactory. Seventeen schools, attended by 1,415 children, were examined by the Inspector of Schools for the grant-in-aid.

Eleven of these schools, with 1,084 pupils, are under the management of the Roman Catholic Mission, whilst six are under the control of the Church of England, and are attended by 331 persons.

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Three new schools have been admitted to participate in the Government grant, and the total number of scholars is 237 over that of the previous year.

The same amount as in 1882, viz., Rs. 6,000, was voted by the Board of Civil Commissioners as a grant-in-aid, and was apportioned as follows:—

	Rs.	c.
Roman Catholic Mission - - -	4,527	22
Church of England - - -	1,472	78

Judicial Statistics.

The total number of criminal cases entered during 1883 was 401 against 589 the year before, and 365 persons were convicted. In 1882 the number convicted was 517.

Though the list of charges was not so long as last year, some of them were of a serious character. One man was tried for manslaughter, but acquitted, and another was found guilty of attempt at manslaughter. There was one case of rape, two of attempt on chastity, and one of attempted burglary.

In the convictions for larceny there was a great increase, 40 taking place in 1883 to 27 in 1882. In addition to them, there were three convictions for embezzlement, and 28 for possession of stolen property against 22 the year before.

The rest of the cases were of an ordinary character. There was less drunkenness and disturbance than in 1882, but assaults and abusive language were somewhat frequent, particularly towards the close of the year. The increase in the convictions for larceny was partly due to the activity of the police and partly, no doubt, to the greater prevalence of the offence owing to the high price of provisions consequent on the quarantine. There can be no doubt, however, but that there is a tendency to this crime, and especially to thefts of produce of the soil, such as cocoanuts and vanilla, amongst the lower classes in Seychelles, and particularly amongst the unemployed Africans. The nature of much of the country favours the operations of this class of thieves, as it is mountainous and woody and in many places nearly roadless. The police are active in the detection of such offenders, but the force is too small altogether to check their depredations, though it is in a very efficient state, and its duties are most satisfactorily performed.

Gaol.

The total number of persons committed to gaol in 1883 was 446; less than half the number in 1882, in which year the committals reached the unusually high figure of 753.

The difference, however, was chiefly owing to the larger number of persons committed for non-payment of fines and costs and for safe custody, pending trial, during 1882; for there were

nearly as many committals under the Penal Code last year as the year before, the number being 126 against 129.

One sentence for over five years was passed, and 16 for over one year. In 1882 there were 23 for over one year and one for above five years.

There were only 16 admissions to hospital from the gaol in 1883 against 19 in 1882, and no death occurred among the prisoners.

Ninety-five civil causes were tried before the Court in 1883. In one instance the value at issue exceeded Rs. 5,000, and in 14 it was over Rs. 500. There were four divorce cases during the year.

Agriculture.

The crop of vanilla gathered in 1883 was satisfactory, and the cultivation of this product is largely increasing.

The yield of cloves was extraordinarily abundant; but I regret to say that a considerable part of the crop was abandoned, owing to want of labour to gather it, and other causes. I myself saw the trees on one of the finest plantations in Mahé loaded with cloves which had passed the time for gathering, the proprietor unfortunately having been unable to get in more than a portion of the crop.

Cacao is extensively cultivated, but most of the plantations are as yet young; and the export, which is chiefly to Rèunion, is still small, and was checked no doubt considerably by the quarantine. Only 1,271 kilos were exported last year.

The Ceylon coffee leaf disease has, unfortunately, shown itself in these Islands in spite of the precautions taken to prevent the importation of plants and berries from infested places. It is probable that the disease has in reality existed here for some time, but its symptons, which are not very apparent in the earlier stages, were not recognised until recently pointed out by a gentleman from Ceylon. I fear that it will greatly injure the industry; but the quantity of coffee grown here is not very large and the export is trifling.

Public Works and Survey

Owing to the state of the finances but little in the way of public works could be done during the year beyond necessary repairs and maintenance of roads and bridges. One large new bridge, however (by far the largest in the Island), has nearly been completed at Port Gland, and another in the same district was made earlier in the year by the police stationed there, who volunteered to do the work (the Public Works Department being then fully occupied), and executed it very well and economically.

The survey is being proceeded with steadily, though, as the Government Surveyor has no assistants, the work is necessarily slow.

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Crown Lands and Forests.

The protection of Government forests and river reserves is now as well attended to as the limited staff of the Crown Lands Department will allow, and several persons have been successfully prosecuted during the year for cutting wood on river banks and in Government forests. Re-planting also is being regularly carried on.

In such departments as those of the Public Works, Survey and Lands and Forests, however, especially the two former, anything like rapid progress, combined with sound and satisfactory work, can hardly be made without an outlay infinitely greater than Seychelles can afford, and the Local Government, though it does what it can, is far from being able to accomplish all it would, or even all that is but too obviously needed, in these important branches of the Administration.

Legislation.

The following Regulations, 11 in number, were passed by the Board of Civil Commissioners during the year:—

Regulation No. 1 of 1883.—"To amend the law of mortgage and to provide for the transcription of deed and documents."

Regulation No. 2 of 1883.—"To define the boundaries of the outer and inner harbours of Victoria."

Regulation No. 3 of 1883.—"To consolidate and amend regulations affecting larcenies of cocoanuts, &c."

Regulation No. 4 of 1883.—"To appoint the Inspector of Schools to be ex-officio a member of the Board of Education.

Regulation No. 5 of 1883.—"To validate all proceedings and surveys made under Ordinance No. 33 of 1867."

Regulation No. 6 of 1883.—"To amend the law of bankruptcy."

Regulation No. 7 of 1883.—"Respecting the introduction of dogs into the Seychelles Islands."

Regulation No. 8 of 1883.—"To declare certain days to be holidays."

Regulation No. 9 of 1883.—"To provide for the instituting of certain places, from time to time, as legal prisons by the Chief Civil Commissioner of Seychelles."

Regulation No. 10 of 1883.—"To enlarge the powers of the Board of Health, and to make further provision in addition to Regulation No. 3 of 1874."

Regulation No. 11 of 1883.—"For applying a sum not exceeding Rs. 126,385 to the service of the year 1884."

(Signed) ARTHUR BARKLY,
Chief Civil Commissioner.

Government House,
Seychelles, 26th March 1884.

REPORT ON THE ISLAND OF RODRIGUES FOR 1883.

Civil Commissioner's Office, Rodrigues,
May 26, 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Report on the Island of Rodrigues for the year 1883.

2. The Blue Book Returns were despatched under cover of my letter of the 12th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. O'HALLORAN,
Civil Commissioner and
Police Magistrate.

The Hon.
The Colonial Secretary,
Mauritius.

I.—TAXATION.

No alteration was made in the taxation of this Island during 1883.

II.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

Receipts for past two years.

No.	Heads of Receipts.	1882.		1883.	
		Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1	Land sales and forest produce -	167	30	364	38
2	Customs - - - -	—		11	24
3	Land rent - - - -	1,195	90	1,153	00
4	Pasturage - - - -	1,696	75	1,457	00
5	Registration dues - - -	10	50	4	00
6	Licenses (shop, game, and fishing) -	2,091	50	2,106	00
7	Stamps - - - -	114	11	82	41
8	Taxes (horses and dogs) - -	468	75	515	00
9	Postage and commission on money orders - - - -	135	05	156	39
10	Fines and forfeitures - -	531	00	476	00
11	Fees of court - - -	209	04	138	33
12	Fees of office - - -	24	00	15	25
13	Sale of Government property -	559	72	933	74
14	School fees - - - -	120	37	167	50
15	Miscellaneous - - -	1,109	28	1,529	44
	Total - - -	8,433	27	9,109	68

There is an increase of Rs. 676 41 in the receipts for 1883 over those of the previous year, and of Rs. 1787 76 over 1880, my first year in the island. The figures in the above table indicate a slight increase in the revenue obtained from land sales

and forest produce, licenses, taxes on dogs, postage and school fees, while the increase under the sale of Government property alone is Rs. 374 02, and under miscellaneous Rs. 420 16.

The total increase under all the above headings (including a sum of Rs. 11 24 as local custom dues) is Rs. 1,131 72. Against this will be observed a decrease of Rs. 455 31 under headings of land rent, pasturage, registrations, stamps, fines and forfeitures, fees of court and fees of office, of which decrease more than half (namely, Rs. 239 75) is in pasturage dues.

The increase under sale of Government property is to be attributed to the Government Farm, which had its first existence in 1883; while miscellaneous receipts have been increased by a few payments made in the Island for freight and passages per Harmonie.

The decrease under head of pasturage, which is the only one worth noticing, has been caused by payment of Mr. Martin's pasturage fees in Mauritius and by a greater exportation of goats from the Island.

The receipts would be more than doubled if the Rodrigues custom dues levied in Mauritius were added to the above.

The rate of revenue per head of population for 1883 is Rs. 5 76 against Rs. 5 45 in 1882.

Expenditure for past two years.

	Heads of Expenditure.	1882. Rs.	c.	1883. Rs.	c.
1	Salaries fixed & provisional. Civil Commissioner and postmaster	4,119	84	4,119	84
2	Roman Catholic chaplain	1,999	92	1,999	92
3	Government medical officer	2,166	58	2,166	58
4	Schools department	2,776	50	2,939	97
5	Police and forest ranger	5,079	81	4,865	28
6	Hospital servant	192	00	196	11
7	Scavengers	286	40	288	00
8	Allowances. Rent Government medical officer	650	00	645	33
9	„ Schoolmaster and mistress	545	00	367	50
10	„ Chief officer of police	180	00	247	50
11	Meteorological observer	211	50	182	50
12	School cleaning	141	00	156	00
13	Clerk to Civil Commissioner	40	00	240	00
14	Miscellaneous. Taxation Crown witnesses	12	44	15	63
15	Mr. Dupont, acting Civil Commissioner	335	00	—	
16	Half pay schoolmaster and mistress, Julien	1,624	90	1,141	54
17	Rent of hospital	360	00	360	00
18	Hospital sick diets	36	74	138	50
19	Works and buildings, including sanitary	1,015	94	2,605	05
20	Repairs to boats and buildings	142	00	149	50
21	Transport	73	50	23	25
22	Prisoners' rations (extra)	3	96	2	86
23	Rations, hospital, servant, and scavengers'	50	64	50	64

		Heads of Expenditure.	1882. Rs.	c.	1883. Rs.	c.
24	Miscellaneous.	Maintenance and burial of sick paupers	—		56	45
25		Fees paid usher of Police Court	147	00	86	34
26		Shares of fines and forfeitures	133	82	66	66
27		Vaccination fees paid Government medical officer	—		135	00
28		Extra assistance hospital nurse	—		38	00
29		Pension, ex. British Consul, Morris	170	40	170	40
30		Various petty payments	38	57	136	86
31		Materials Gabriel schoolhouse	60	14	—	
32		Furniture for Court house	20	50	—	
33		Purchases for Government tug boat "Stella"	99	56	—	
34		Pilot fees (for Government schooner)	50	00	160	00
35		Hire extra boatmen	21	00	15	50
36		Police constable medal gratuity	60	00	200	00
37		Reward for capture of escaped prisoner	20	00	—	
38		Temporary rent, Gabriel schoolhouse	40	00	—	
39		Travelling expenses Government medical officer	—		160	25
40		Various expenses on account Harmonie	—		65	25
41		Reward for recovery of Government boat "Victoria"	—		10	00
42		Special taxation assizes, chief officer of police	—		100	00
43		Quarantine (Express guard boat)	—		115	25
44		Wages Government farm and sundry expenses	—		1,789	28
		Total	22,904	66	26,206	74

There has been an increase of Rs. 3302 08 in the expenditure of 1883 over the previous year, principally caused by new buildings, expenses of Government Farm and increments to schoolmasters and schoolmistresses.

The excess of expenditure in 1883 (as per Rodrigues books) over revenue has been Rs. 17,097 06, but then only local revenue has been taken into account; that derived from Customs duty levied in Mauritius on all our imports and certain pasturage dues paid there also has not been included in the table of receipts.

The rate of expenditure per head of population in 1883 was Rs. 16 57 *versus* Rs. 14 81 in 1882.

III.—Criminal Justice.

Offences for which prosecutions took place in 1883 numbered 71, being a decrease of 17 on the year 1882. There was also a decrease of 29 in the number of persons brought before the Courts in 1883 over 1882.

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Table of offences for which persons were prosecuted in 1882 and 1883.

No.	Nature of Offences.	No. of Offences.	
		1882.	1883.
1	Attempt at chastity	1	2
2	Perjury	1	—
3	Larceny and attempt at	6	6
4	Possession of stolen property	13	4
5	Wounds and blows	5	4
6	Assault	3	1
7	Threats to injure	1	1
8	Stone throwing, causing injury	—	1
9	Illegal arrest	—	1
10	False and malicious declarations	—	2
11	Drunkenness	6	8
12	Disturbance	2	1
13	Slander	1	2
14	Abusive language	4	6
15	Indecency	1	—
16	Trespass	5	5
17	Harbouring escaped prisoners	3	—
18	Cruelty to animals	1	—
19	Allowing animals to stray	6	4
20	Illegally lighting fires	3	—
21	Destroying trees on Crown lands and plundering wood	4	3
22	Offences license law	11	13
23	Sanitary offences	4	—
24	Abduction of minors	1	—
25	Absconding from conjugal roof	1	—
26	Introducing prohibited articles to prison	1	—
27	Allowing ferocious animals to stray	1	1
28	Killing domestic animals	1	—
29	Breach of contract and other stipendiary offences	2	6
	Total	88	71

Cases for past two years classified as follows:—

Before what Court.	No. of Persons charged.		No. of Persons convicted.		No. of Persons acquitted or otherwise.	
	1882.	1883.	1882.	1883.	1882.	1883.
Police Court	113	76	87	63	26	13
Stipendiary Court	2	10	2	5	—	5
Total	115	86	89	68	26	18

Nationality of Offenders 1882 *and* 1883.

	1882.	1883
Europeans - - - - -	—	2
Creoles - - - - -	97	74
Indians - - - - -	2	5
Malagasses - - - - -	16	5
Total - - -	115	86

IV.—EDUCATION.

During 1883 the two Government schools at Port Mathurin and Gabriel continued their useful work, under the able direction of Mr. Ambrosine at the former and Mr. Ternel at the latter.

Tables showing the number of pupils attending the Government Schools during the past two years :—

Port Mathurin School.

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance on Roll.
1882 - - - -	57	41	72 per cent.
1883 - - -	75	61	81 „

Gabriel School.

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance on Roll.
1882 - - - -	73	61	83 per cent.
1883 - - - -	84	73	87 „

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On the 20th December 1883 the Civil Commissioner examined the scholars at Gabriel School, assisted by the curé of Rodrigues (the Rev. Stevenon); 65 pupils were present. The great benefit of this school to the children of the mountains is daily more evident; children who previously were debarred from the advantages of instruction now attend on all school days for five hours instead of running wild over the mountain slopes, the good effect of which will, without doubt, be apparent in the future generation. The progress made during the two years the school has been in existence has been all that could be desired.

On December 21st the Port Mathurin scholars were examined by the Civil Commissioner with the assistance of the Government Medical Officer Dr. Mifsud and the Chief Officer of Police, Mr. Wallis; 71 pupils were present. As usual the examination was confined to reading, writing, geography, grammar, and arithmetic, the results being most satisfactory.

These examinations will be reported on separately, as well as the distribution of prizes in connexion therewith.

I have much pleasure in placing on record the zeal and good work of both schoolmasters during the past year.

Cost of Port Mathurin School during past two years.

Particulars.	1882.	1883.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Salaries of teachers - - - -	1,756 58	1,800 00
House rent - - - - -	380 00	360 00
Allowance for keeping school clean in lieu of a servant - - - - -	96 00	96 00
Total - - - -	2,232 58	2,256 00
Less school fees received - - -	120 37	167 50
Total cost of school - -	2,112 21	2,088 50

N.B.—The schoolmaster received his increment of Rs. 100, and the sewing mistress hers of Rs. 60, their salary being respectively Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 300. It would appear by the foregoing figures that only Rs. 43 42 were paid in 1883 in excess of salaries over 1882, notwithstanding that Rs. 160 extra were paid in increments; but by a referenee to note under cost of Port Mathurin school in yearly report for 1882 it will be seen that Rs. 116 66 was paid in that year as salary for December 1881. This amount added to Rs. 43 42 minus eight cents, caused by monthly divisions of salary in 1882, will make the Rs. 160 increase this year. The house rent of 1883 also appears Rs. 20 less than in 1882; this was also explained in report for that year as house rent paid in

1882 for December 1881. The usual allowance of Rs. 8 per mensem was paid for school cleaning. Rs. 47 13 was collected as school fees in 1883 in excess of 1882. The total cost of school during the year under review was apparently Rs. 23 71 less than the previous year; but if the Rs. 136 66 (salary and house rent December 1881), be deducted from yearly cost in 1882, we have actual cost of school for 1882 Rs. 1,975 55 which gives an increase of cost in 1883 Rs. 112 95.

The annual cost to Government of each pupil was Rs. 34 23 as against Rs. 51 51 in 1882.

Cost of Gabriel School for 1883.

Particulars.	1882.		1883.	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
Salary of teacher and sewing mistress -	1,019	92	1,139	97
House rent pending building of residence for teacher - - - - -	165	00	7	50
Allowance for school cleaning in lieu of servant - - - - -	45	00	60	00
Rent of school-house while one was building	40	00	—	
Total - - -	1,269	92	1,207	47

N.B.—The schoolmaster received his increment of Rs. 100, making his salary Rs. 900 but the sewing mistress remained on the same scale as in 1882, viz., Rs. 240. From 1st January 1883 Mrs. Ternel, the wife of the schoolmaster, relieved Mrs. Legentil, who acted temporarily for 11 months in 1882. It therefore being Mrs. Ternel's first year she received the minimum salary. There is an increase of Rs. 120 05 in salaries of this school for 1883 over 1882. This is caused as follows:—Rs. 100 increment to schoolmaster, Rs. 20 extra on sewing mistress' salary, she having been paid for the whole of 1883, while in 1882 she was employed for only 11 months, and five cents being the difference caused by monthly division of salary in 1882. The schoolmaster only received house rent from 1st to 15th January, on which date he was furnished with quarters.

In 1883 the allowance of Rs. 5 for school cleaning was paid for the whole year, whereas in 1882 it was only paid for nine months.

Tuition during the past year was free, and there was a decrease of Rs. 62 45 in the cost of the school in consequence of no rent being paid for school premises, and only Rs. 7 50 for house rent of teacher.

The annual cost to Government of each pupil was Rs. 16 54 against Rs. 20 81 in 1882.

Cost of the two Government Schools during the past two years.

Particulars.	Cost of Port Mathurin and Gabriel School in 1882.	Cost of Port Mathurin and Gabriel School in 1883.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Salaries of teachers - - -	2,776 50	2,939 97
House rent of teachers - - -	545 00	367 50
Allowance school cleaning - -	141 00	156 00
Rent Gabriel school house - -	40 00	—
Total - -	3,502 50	3,463 47
Less fees received at Port Mathurin (none received at Gabriel) - -	120 37	167 50
Total - -	3,381 13	3,295 97

The annual cost to Government of each pupil at both schools has been Rs. 24 59 against Rs. 33 15 in 1882.

V.—POST OFFICE.

The revenue derived from this source during 1883 stands at Rs. 156 39, being an increase of Rs. 21 34 in the year 1882.

Post Office receipts for past two years.

Particulars.	1882.	1883.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1. Unpaid letters - - - -	6 84	7 24
2. Sale of postage labels - - -	94 64	112 74
3. Commission on money orders - -	33 57	36 41
Total - - -	135 05	156 39

Money Orders 1882 *and* 1883.

Where drawn on.	1882.	1883.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Drawn on Mauritius - - -	9,189 29	10,066 51
„ Rodrigues - - -	307 22	143 03

The increase in amount of orders drawn on Mauritius in 1883 over 1882 was Rs. 877 22, while there was a decrease of Rs. 164 19 in those drawn on Rodrigues.

Letters and Newspapers despatched and received during the past two years.

Year.	Received.						Despatched.			
	Letters.			Newspapers.			Letters.			Newspapers and Books.
	Total.	Foreign.	Total.	Total.	Foreign.	Total.	Total.	Foreign.	Total.	
1882 -	1,066	59	1,125*	304	44	348	1,070	56	1,126‡	2
1883 -	1,083	113	1,196†	630	67	697	1,267	60	1,327§	2

* 26 registered letters. † 70 registered letters. ‡ 29 registered.
§ 83 registered.

In 1883 there was an increase of 71 in the number of letters and 349 in the number of newspapers received at Rodrigues Post Office, and an increase of 201 in the letters despatched, as compared with the year 1882.

VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The residence of the schoolmaster at Gabriel, which was commenced in 1882, was completed and handed over in January 1883. The police station at Mount Lubin, which was also commenced in 1882, was completed in the early part of 1883.

A manager's house, store-room, and outhouses were erected during the year at the Model Farm, and a residence for the Chief Officer of Police at Port Mathurin was commenced, but not completed at end of the year. Repairs to existing roads and bridges, as necessary, were executed, as well as to boats and Government buildings, the latter being repainted inside and out.

Rs. 2,754 55 were expended on works and buildings and repairs (including sanitary) *versus* Rs. 1,218 08 in 1882, or an increase of Rs. 1,536 47.

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VII.—POPULATION.

The population of this Dependency on 31st December 1883 was 1,581 against 1,546, or an increase of 35 souls.

Population on 31st December 1882	-		1,546
Total births in 1883	-	64	
„ arrivals „	-	46	
		— 110	
Less deaths	-	28	
„ departures	-	47	
		— 75	
Increase 1883	-	-	35
Population on 31st December 1883			1,581

Total of Births, Deaths, &c. during past two years.

Year.	Births.			Deaths.			Arrivals.			Departures.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1882 - -	45	43	88	8	9	17	28	12	40	31	12	43
1883 - -	31	33	64	18	10	28	32	14	46	32	15	47

Classification of Population 1882 *and* 1883.

Year.	General Population.			Indian Population.			Total.		Grand Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
1882 -	353	671	1,524	19	3	22	872	674	1,546
1883 -	864	692	6	22	3	25	886	695	1,581

Classification of Nationalities.

	1882.	1883.
Natives of Europe	26	26
„ America	1	1
„ Asia (India and Siam)	23	26
„ Africa	10	8
„ Madagascar	40	44
„ Mauritius	199	192
„ Seychelles	6	6
„ Rodrigues	1,239	1,276
„ Réunion	2	2
Total	1,546	1,581

The following is the estimation of the numbers employed at various callings and those unemployed :—

	1882.	1883.
Government servants	18	17
Commerce	7	7
Agriculturists	600	800
Artizans	12	12
Fisheries	300	200
Other callings	60	100
Unemployed, including aged people and young children	549	445
Total	1,546	1,581

Marriages, 9 in 1883 against 10 in 1882.
Still births, 2 „ „ 2 „

There was an increase of 11 in the mortality of 1883 over 1882; six deaths were results of accidents, one old age, and three infantile diseases, such as dentition.

VIII.—LEGISLATION.

During the year 1883 the following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Mauritius, especially for Rodrigues :—

Ordinance 5 of 1883.—To extend Ordinance 3 of 1881.

Ordinance 6 of 1883.—To invest the Civil Commissioner of Rodrigues with disciplinary control over the police at Rodrigues.

Ordinance 7 of 1883.—To enlarge the jurisdiction of the Police Magistrate in cases of civil debts due to the Crown.

Ordinance 14 of 1883.—To invest the Police Magistrate with certain notarial powers.

The following regulations under Ordinance 3 of 1881 were finally passed by the Council and became law :—

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Regulation No. 1 of 1883.—To prevent the destruction of game at Rodrigues.

Regulation No. 2 of 1883.—To provide for public health in the Island of Rodrigues.

Various other Ordinances which were passed for Mauritius had clauses making them applicable to the Dependencies.

IX.—PRISONS.

Forty-one prisoners were committed during 1883 as compared with 50 in 1882 :—

	1882.	1883.
For non-payment of fine and costs - -	9	9
„ safe custody until trial - - -	18	12
„ various terms of imprisonment - -	22	19
„ debt under Ordinance 16 of 1879 -	1	1
Total - - -	50	41

The prison duty was performed by the police as usual, but their strength during the year was reduced from seven to six to admit of a forest ranger and special constable being placed on the mountains.

No offences were committed in the prison, and no escapes took place during 1883.

Cost of prisoners, value of rations, rice and salt, value of labour nil; sweeping, weeding, and ordinary scavengers' work about village being almost their only employment.

X.—ESTABLISHMENT.

Cost of Establishment for past two years.

Year.	Salaries.	Allowances.	Total.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1882 - - -	16,621 05	1,767 50	18,388 55
1883 - - -	16,575 70	1,838 83	17,414 53

There was an increase of Rs. 25 98 in the cost of the Rodrigues establishment for 1883 over the previous year, the

salaries showing a decrease of Rs. 45 35, whilst the allowances indicate an increase of Rs. 71 33. The items of increase and decrease are as follows :—

		Rs.	c.
Increase,	School salaries - - -	163	47
„	Hospital servant - -	4	11
„	Scavengers - - -	1	60
„	House rent Chief Officer of Police	67	50
„	School cleaning allowance -	15	00
„	Clerk to Civil Commissioner -	200	00
		451	68

		Rs.	c.		
Less decrease,	Police salaries -	214	53		
„	House rent Government Medical Officer	4	67		
„	House schoolmaster -	177	50		
„	Meteorological observer	29	00		
				425	70
	Total -			25	98

XI.—TRADE.

The estimated value of imports and exports for the past two years stands as follows :—

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1882 - - - -	64,989	25	93,100	00
1883 - - - -	55,372	95	94,385	00

The imports thus show a decrease of Rs. 9,616 30, and the exports an increase of Rs. 1,285 00.

In the imports there was a falling off to the value of Rs. 14,356 in the under-mentioned articles, viz., rum, rice, coffee, soap, rattan, vermouth, porter, olive oil, castor oil, vinegar, flour, candles, biscuits, and haberdashery; while against this there was an increase to the value of Rs. 4,740 in brandy, sugar, salt, wine, cocoanut oil, groceries, planks, tobacco, lard, and twine.

In the exports beans, poultry, garlic, cattle, salt fish, palmists, pepper, manure, and maize show an increase of Rs. 8,988 *versus* a decrease to the value of Rs. 7,703 in fruits, pigs, and goats.

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Rate of Imports and Exports per head of population during past two years.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1882 - - - -	42 03	60 22
1883 - - - -	35 02	59 69

XII.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Observations of the barometer, thermometer, winds and weather were made and duly recorded during the past year by the Chief Officer of Police (Mr. J. Wallis). These observations were transmitted by each opportunity to the Director of the Observatory at Mauritius.

No hurricane visited this Island during the year 1883.

XIII.—GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARY.

Table showing Number of Patients treated during 1882 *and* 1883.

Year.	In Patients.			Out Patients of both sex.	Grand Total.	Prevailing Diseases amongst In-Patients.
	Male.	Female.	Total.			
1882 -	6	4	*10	337	347	Tetanus, 1; abscess, 1; hepatitis, 1; contusion, 1; ulcer, 1; retention of urine, 1; meteorohagia, 1; mania, 1; pleuritis, 1; dropsy, 1.
1883 -	13	8	*21	857	878	Rheumatism, 1; varicella, 1; heart disease, 1; oopharitis, 1; fracture, 1; fever, 2; dysentery, 1; abscess, 2; enteritis, 1; venereal, 1; pyœmia, 1; epittelioma, 1; phthisis, 1; ulcers, 1; general debility, 1.

* For various periods.

During 1883 there was an increase of 11 patients treated in the Hospital as compared with 1882, and an increase of 531 amongst the out dispensary patients for the same period.

Receipts and Expenditure of Hospital for 1882 *and* 1883.

Year.	Receipts on account of In-Patients.	Total Expenditure on account of Hospital.	Cost of Hospital and Dispensary, exclusive of Medicines.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1882 - - -	41 75	3,422 20	3,380 45
1883 - - -	224 32	3,794 98	3,570 66

Note.—Expenditure for 1882 and 1883 was as follows :—

———	1882.	1882.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Salary of medical officer - - -	2,166 58	2,166 58
House rent of medical officer - -	650 00	645 33
Travelling expenses of medical officer -	—	160 25
Rent of hospital - - - -	360 00	360 00
Pay and ration of servant - - -	208 88	229 87
Wages of female nurse - - -	—	38 00
Hospital sick diets - - - -	36 74	138 50
Maintenance sick paupers - -	—	56 45
Total - - -	3,422 20	3,794 98

There was an increase of Rs. 190 21 in total cost of hospital in 1883 over 1882, and an increase in the receipts of Rs. 182 57 for the same period. The total cost to Government of each patient both in hospital and at dispensary was as follows during past two years :—

	Rs. c.
1882 - - - -	9 74
1883 - - - -	4 06

In 1883 there were no deaths against two in 1882.

Weekly visits were made by the medical officer to the Mountain Dispensary.

In April Dr. Villemont was relieved by Dr. Mifsud, specially appointed from Malta.

XIV.—GOVERNMENT MODEL FARM.

At the conclusion of my Report on this Island for the year 1882 a reference is made to the scheme which was approved by the Government of Mauritius for the establishment of a model farm at Rodrigues. Its object was the encouragement and development of the agricultural resources of the Island, and a yearly sum of Rs. 1,500 was voted for the purpose.

In January 1883, about 40 acres were selected at a locality called " Piments," on the north-west of the Island, as the site of

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the model farm, and operations were commenced on a small scale. A working manager was appointed at a salary of Rs. 60 per mensem, with four labourers at wages of Rs. 15 per month, and by the end of March 10 acres had been thoroughly cleaned and prepared for planting and a roadway (about one and a half miles long) made to the sea-coast.

Maize, wheat, oats, and beans were planted, and three quarters of an acre in a suitable spot was converted into a vegetable garden. The maize crop was most satisfactory, but the beans did not thrive so well, and the harvest of the latter was not nearly what was expected.

The wheat and oats being simply a trial (as none is planted elsewhere in the Island) only half an acre of each was sown. Both of these small plantations were successful, and proved that wheat and oats could be grown advantageously. The only revenue obtained from the farm was from the maize and beans crop and the sale of vegetables.

The result has not been a financial success, receipts not covering one fourth of the expenses; I cannot recommend the continuance of the experiment. Agriculturists do not seem to care about leaving the old beaten track, which means in agriculture at Rodrigues plantations of maize and beans; I therefore see no utility in this outlay.

The following statement will show the actual result of the work of the farm during 1883:—

Expenditure.

			Rs.	c.
Wages of manager and labourers, 1st January to 31st December 1883, paid from vote of Rs. 1,500 for that year			1,478	75*
Sundry petty expenditure, seed for planting, materials and implements			310	53*
Cost of building manager's house, labourers' hut and storeroom			563	50†
Purchases made on account of farm in Mauritius by Storekeeper General			335	00‡
Total			2,687	78
Less receipts as follows:—				
	Rs.	c.		
Sale of maize	325	05		
„ vegetables	81	28		
			406	33
Total			2,281	45

* Item 44, Miscellaneous Expenditure, 1883.

† Included in Works and Buildings, Item 19, Miscellaneous.

‡ This amount does not figure in Rodrigues books; the last three items of expenditure paid out of vote of Rs. 1,500 for year 1882, which had been placed in deposit.

N.B.—Only 2,400 lbs. beans were gathered in, and 2,000 of that was sent to Mauritius to be sold; the sale price not known to me, therefore, I cannot include it above.

Onions to the value of Rs. 111 80 from last year's produce were sold this year, the cash consequently appearing for 1884.

XV.—GENERAL REMARKS.

There has been nothing extraordinary to note during the past year. The crops of the Island were good, and there was no lack of food amongst the mountain classes as is sometimes the case.

The sanitary condition was also satisfactory, for although the death rate was higher, this, as is explained in paragraph 7, was caused by infantile diseases and accidental deaths. The general health of the community being as fair as in the previous year.

The great boon of the year was the advent of the Government schooner, which benefits the whole population. This interference of Government has at present been really a necessity, but it is to be hoped that before many years are over the trade of the Dependency will be sufficiently prosperous to attract more shipping to our Island, and to not only render a Government vessel unnecessary but place Rodrigues in more frequent communication with Mauritius and the outer world.

(Signed) J. C. O'HALLORAN,
Civil Commissioner and
Police Magistrate.

Civil Commissioner's Office,
26th May 1885.

VICTORIA.

No. 2.

Governor Sir H. B. LOCH, K.C.B., to Col. the Right Hon. F. A. STANLEY, M.P.

Government House, Melbourne,
November 11, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of the digest of the statistics of the Colony of Victoria for the year 1884.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY B. LOCH.

Col. The Right Hon.
F. Stanley, M.P.
&c. &c.

VICTORIA.

DIGEST of the STATISTICS of VICTORIA, 1884.

By HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, C.M.G., Government Statist.

First discovery of Victoria.

1. It is believed that the first Europeans who ever sighted any portion of the land now embraced within the limits of the Colony of Victoria were Captain James Cook, of the Royal Navy, and the crew of His Majesty's ship "Endeavour." This vessel had been sent to Tahiti to observe the transit of Venus over the sun's disc, and Cook, who was in command, having accomplished that object, and having also made a survey of New Zealand, continued his course westward in order to explore the eastern coast of "Terra Australis Incognita." He made the land on the 19th April 1770, and estimated a prominent point, which he named after the first discoverer, Lieutenant Hicks, one of the officers of his vessel, to be in latitude 38° south, longitude 211° 7′ west (148° 53′ east). Cook, however, did not attempt to land, or even to approach the shore, but passed on to other discoveries. It may be observed that Point Hicks appears to be identical with the present Cape Everard, in Gippsland, situated about midway between Cape Howe and the mouth of the Snowy River.

First settlement in Australia.

2. On the 18th January 1788 Captain Arthur Phillip, R.N., landed in Botany Bay, whither he had been despatched from England in charge of a squadron of 11 vessels, in order to found a penal colony in Australia. Finding Botany Bay unsuitable for settlement, in consequence, as he says, of "the "openness of the bay and the dampness of the soil, by which the "people would probably be rendered unhealthy" he sailed northward to Port Jackson, only a few miles distant, and took formal possession of the country in the name of His Majesty George the Third on the 26th January 1788.

Early history of Victoria.

3. For nearly 10 years after Phillip's arrival little was known of the coast to the south of Port Jackson. The island of Tasmania, then called Van Diemen's Land, was believed to be joined to the Australian continent, and Bass's Straits, the entrance only to which had been observed, was thought to be a deep bay. At length George Bass, a surgeon in the Royal Navy, started in a whale boat, manned by six seamen, and passing Cape Howe, coasted along that part of Victoria now called Gippsland, and rounding Wilson's Promontory, the southernmost point on the Australian continent, entered Western Port on the 4th June 1798. He, however, returned to Sydney without discovering Port Phillip Bay, which was first entered on the 5th January 1802 by Acting Lieutenant John Murray, in command of the armed brig "Lady Nelson." In the month of October in the following year an attempt was made to colonize the territory by Lieutenant-Colonel David Collins, of the Royal Marines, in

command of a party of convicts. Collins, however, after the expiration of three months, abandoned Port Phillip as unfit for settlement, and for the next 20 years the district attracted but little attention. But in 1824 two explorers, Hume and Hovell, made their way overland from Sydney, and, on their return, gave a satisfactory report of the country, the result being that a convict establishment was soon afterwards founded on Western Port Bay, which, however, was in a short time abandoned, apparently on economic grounds. The first permanent settlement in Victoria was formed at Portland Bay by Mr. Edward Henty, from Van Diemen's Land as Tasmania was then called, who landed on the 19th November 1834, and soon commenced to till the soil, run and breed stock, and carry on whaling operations. Others followed, but the absence of good land in the immediate vicinity of the port, and the openness of the bay, which rendered it unsafe for shipping during the prevalence of certain winds, caused it to be considered an unsuitable site for a capital, which was eventually founded at the northern end of Port Phillip Bay by two parties, one led by John Batman, who landed on the 29th May 1835, and the other by John Pascoe Fawkner, whose party arrived at the site of Melbourne on the 28th August of the same year. Both these were from Van Diemen's Land, and they were soon followed by others from the same island and from Sydney, who brought stock with them and commenced to push their way into the interior. These were met by Major (afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel Sir) Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, who, entering from New South Wales on the north, and traversing a considerable portion of the as yet unknown territory, was so struck with its wondrous capabilities that he named it Australia Felix, a title the aptness of which a subsequent knowledge of the geniality of its climate, the excellence of its soil, and the then unsuspected richness of its mineral treasures, has proved to be fully justified. The reports of Major Mitchell, and the success of the first settlers, caused great excitement, not only in the Australian settlements, but in the mother-country. Herds of sheep and cattle, driven overland from New South Wales, speedily occupied the best parts of the new territory. Every available craft capable of floating was put into requisition to bring passengers and stock from Van Diemen's Land, and after a time ship loads of emigrants began to arrive from the United Kingdom. Regular government was first established under Captain William Lonsdale, who, having been sent from Sydney to take charge of the district, landed on the 29th September 1836; and on the 2nd March of the following year Sir Richard Bourke, the Governor of New South Wales, visited it, and named the metropolis Melbourne. Mr. Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived on the 30th September 1839, having been appointed to the principal official position in the settlement under the title of Superintendent, which was changed to that of Lieutenant-Governor, when, on the 1st July 1851, it was separated from New South Wales and erected into a separate colony

Victoria.

under the name of Victoria. Shortly afterwards rich deposits of gold were discovered, the fame of which soon spread throughout the world, and led to a great influx of population. After a time some discontent arose among the diggers, in consequence of the oppressive character of the mining regulations, which culminated in riots, which occurred on the Ballarat gold-field towards the end of 1854. The disturbance was soon quelled, with some bloodshed on both sides, and the grievances complained of were afterwards redressed. A new constitution giving responsible government to the Colony was proclaimed on the 23rd November 1855, and since then, although political struggles have been frequent, and party feeling has at times run high, this has had no permanent effect in setting class against class, or in any way lessening the good feeling which exists between all sections of the community At times commerce has been depressed but this has soon revived, and the material prosperity the Colony has, upon the whole, enjoyed is perhaps without a parallel in the history of any country.

Principal events.

4. The following are the dates of some of the principal events connected with the discovery and history of Victoria :—

1770. April 19th.—Victorian land first discovered by Capt. James Cook, R.N. ("Point Hicks," believed to be the present Cape Everard in Gippsland).

1798. June 4th.—Western Port discovered and entered by Surgeon George Bass, R.N.

1798. November and December.—The existence of a strait between Australia and Tasmania proved by Flinders and Bass, who sailed round the latter island in the sloop "Norfolk."

1800. December 4th to 9th.—Bass's Straits first sailed through from the westward by Lieutenant James Grant, R.N., in H.M.S. "Lady Nelson," of 60 tons burthen, bound from England to Port Jackson. On this occasion Grant discovered and gave the present names to Capes Bridgewater, Nelson, and Sir William Grant, Portland Bay, the Lawrence and Lady Julia Percy Islands, Capes Otway, Patton, Liptrap, &c.

1802. January 15th.—Port Phillip Bay discovered by Acting Lieutenant John Murray, R.N., in the "Lady Nelson." Heads entered by the launch on February 2nd, and by the vessel on February 15th.

1802. April 26th.—Port Phillip Bay entered and examined by Commander Matthew Flinders, R.N., who was not aware it had been previously discovered by Murray.

1803. January and February.—Port Phillip Bay surveyed and the Yarra and Saltwater Rivers discovered by Charles Grimes, Surveyor-General of New South Wales and party.

1803. October 7th.—Attempt to colonize Port Phillip by Colonel David Collins in charge of a party of convicts.

1804. January 27th.—Port Phillip abandoned by Collins as unfit for settlement.

1824. December 16th.—Hume and Hovell arrived at Corio Bay, having travelled overland from Sydney.

1834. November 19th.—Permanent settlement founded at Portland Bay by Edward Henty.

1835. May 29th.—John Batman arrived in Port Phillip and made a treaty with the natives for a grant of 600,000 acres of land. This treaty was afterwards disallowed by the Imperial Government.

1835. August 28th.—John Pascoe Fawkner's party sailed up the Yarra in the "Enterprise" and founded Melbourne.

1836. April to October.—Major (afterwards Lt.-Colonel Sir) Thomas Livingstone Mitchell made extensive explorations in the Port Phillip district, the western portion of which he named Australia Felix.

1836. September 29th.—Regular Government established under Captain William Lonsdale, who was sent from Sydney to act as Resident Magistrate.

1837. March 2nd.—Governor Sir Richard Bourke arrived from Sydney and gave the name of Melbourne to the metropolis of the new settlement.

1837. June 1st.—First sale of Crown lands took place in Melbourne. Average price of half-acre town lots, 35*l.*

1839. September 30th.—Mr. Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived from Sydney and took charge of the Port Phillip district under the title of Superintendent. The territory over which he exercised jurisdiction was much smaller than the present Colony of Victoria, being bounded on the east and west by the 146th and 141st meridians, and on the north by 36th parallel. (For boundaries of Victoria *see* paragraph 2, ante.)

1842. August 12th.—Melbourne incorporated as a town by Act of the Legislature of New South Wales, 6 Vict., No 7.

1847. June 26th.—Royal Letters Patent erecting the town of Melbourne into a city signed at this date; gazetted in Sydney on the 5th February 1848.

1849. October 12th.—Geelong incorporated as a town by Act of the Legislature of New South Wales, 13 Vict.,.No. 40.

1851. July 1st.—Port Phillip separated from New South Wales and erected into an independent Colony under the name of Victoria.

1851. July and August.—Discovery of gold in Victoria.

1853. February 8th.—Road districts (the origin of the present shires) established by Act 16 Vict., No. 40.

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1854.—November.—Riots on Ballarat gold-field. (Eureka stockade taken on the 3rd December).

1854. December 29th.—Municipal institutions (the origin of the present cities, towns, and boroughs) established by Act 18 Vict., No. 15.

1855. November 23rd.—Constitution proclaimed in Victoria.

1856. March 19th.—The ballot as a means of electing members of both Houses of Parliament prescribed by Act 19 Vict, No. 12.

1857. August 27th.—Property qualification of members of the Legislative Assembly abolished by Act 21 Vict., No. 12.

1857. November 24th.—Universal suffrage for electors of the Legislative Assembly made law by Act 21 Vict., No. 33.

1869. January 1st.—Property qualification of members and electors of the Legislative Council reduced by Act 32 Vict., No. 334.

1880. February 6th.—Fortnighty mail service between Victoria and England commenced.

1880. October 1st.—First Victorian International Exhibition opened. It was closed on the 30th April, 1881

1881. November 28th.—Property qualification of members and electors of the Legislative Council further reduced, number of provinces, and members increased, and tenure of seats shortened by Act 45 Vict., No. 702.

Population, 1884.

5. The estimated population of Victoria at the end of 1884* was as follows :—

Population, 31st December 1884.

Males - - - -	510,659
Females - - - -	450,617
Total - -	961,276

Increase of population, 1884.

6. According to the records of births and deaths, and of immigrants and emigrants, the apparent increase of population in 1884 was 29,486, viz., 17,575 males, and 11,911 females. Of this increase, 15,345, consisting of 7,169 males, and 8,176 females, resulted from excess of births over deaths; and the remainder, viz., 14,141, consisting of 10,406 males, and 3,735 females, was due to excess of arrivals over departures. In 1884, the apparent increase of population was greater than in any previous year since

* The estimated population on the 30th June 1885 was 973,403, viz., 517,726 males and 455,677 females.

1864, when the apparent increase was 29,784. The following are the figures for the last 14 years:— VICTORIA

Apparent Increase of Population.

1871	25,846
1872	18,282
1873	19,765
1874	17,945
1875	14,835
1876	17,028
1877	20,487
1878	18,655
1879	19,891
1880	26,157
1881	22,165
1882	23,993
1883	25,565
1884	29,486

7. It may be mentioned that should the population continue to increase at the same rate as is shown for 1884, Victoria would contain a million of inhabitants about April or May 1886: also, that according to the present rate of increase of the population of the adjacent Colony of New South Wales, it also ought to contain a million inhabitants in 1886, probably about three months later than Victoria. Probable population, 1886.

8. The apparent excess of births over deaths in 1884 was greater by 810 than that in 1883, and was also greater than in any other year since 1873. The following are the numbers in the last 14 years:— Increase by births.

Increase by excess of Births over Deaths.

1871	17,464
1872	16,530
1873	16,599
1874	14,578
1875	11,433
1876	13,208
1877	13,234
1878	13,879
1879	14,719
1880	14,496
1881	14,843
1882	13,113
1883	14,535
1884	15,345

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Increase by immigration.

9. The apparent increase of population by excess of arrivals over departures was much greater in 1884 than in any of the previous 13 years, as will be seen by the following figures :—

Increase by Excess of Arrivals over Departures.

1871 - - - -	8,382
1872 - - - -	1,752
1873 - - - -	3,166
1874 - - - -	3,367
1875 - - - -	3,402
1876 - - - -	3,820
1877 - - - -	7,253
1878 - - - -	4,776
1879 - - - -	5,172
1880 - - - -	11,661
1881 - - - -	7,322
1882 - - - -	10,880
1883 - - - -	11,030
1884 - - - -	14,141

Census of populations of the Australasian Colonies.

10. On the 3rd April 1881, that being the day on which the census of the United Kingdom was taken, a simultaneous census of the population was also taken throughout the Australasian Colonies, and from the results it appears that on that day those Colonies, taken as a whole, contained over 2,800,000 inhabitants, of which about 2,166,000 were upon the Australian continent. The following are the numbers returned in each Colony :—

Populations of the Australasian Colonies, 1881.
(*Including Chinese and Aborigines.*)

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Victoria - - - -	452,083	410,263	862,346
New South Wales - -	411,149	340,319	751,468
Queensland - - -	136,044	98,066	234,110
South Australia - - -	153,008	133,203	286,211
Western Australia - -	18,702	13,352	32,054
Total - -	1,170,986	995,203	2,166,189
Tasmania - - -	61,162	54,543	115,705
New Zealand - - -	293,973	240,057	534,030
Grand Total -	1,526,121	1,289,803	2,815,924

Probable population of Australasia in 100 years.

11. The rate of increase of the population of Australia, combined with Tasmania and New Zealand, in the decennial period intervening between the two last censuses may be set down as 42 per cent. There is every probability of that rate being exceeded in the decade ending with 1891 ; but, without hazarding a prediction as to what may actually occur, the following would be the population of the group at each of the ten next decennial

census periods, supposing the same rate of increase to take place between census and census as was found to have taken place between 1871 and 1881 :—

Probable Population of Australasia at Ten Periods.

1891 - - - -	3,998,612
1901 - - - -	5,678,029
1911 - - - -	8,062,801
1921 - - - -	11,449,177
1931 - - - -	16,257,831
1941 - - - -	23,086,120
1951 - - - -	32,782,290
1961 - - - -	46,550,852
1971 - - - -	66,102,210
1981 - - - -	93,865,138

Further estimates of Australasian population.

12. Although in the intervals between the earlier decades the rate of increase will very likely be higher than that which prevailed between the last two censuses, it is hardly probable that the rate will be sustained at the later periods, but supposing the population in 1981 should amount to the number shown in the lowest line, and the increase be continued thereafter at the same rate, the population in 1991 would be 133,288,495, and in 2001 it would be 189,269,663. The consideration of such large numbers naturally excites thought as to what may not be the possibilities of a future Australasia; still it must be admitted that at the present time such speculations are more curious than practically useful.

Chinese in Australasian Colonies.

13. It is estimated that in 1859 there were 42,000 Chinese in Victoria. When the census of 1881 was taken there were only 1,706 more than that number in all the Australasian Colonies and in Victoria these numbers had been reduced to 12,000, as will be seen by the following table :—

Chinese in the Australasian Colonies, 1881.

Victoria - - - -	12,128
New South Wales - - -	10,205
Queensland - - - -	11,229
South Australia - - -	4,151
Western Australia - -	145
Total - - -	37,858
Tasmania - - - -	844
New Zealand - - -	5,004
Grand Total - - -	43,706*

Aborigines in Australasian Colonies.

14. In all the Colonies on the Australasian continent the enumeration of the aborigines obtained at the census of 1881 was incomplete. This is of little importance so far as this Colony is concerned, the numbers here being so small. In New South Wales only the

* Of this number, only 362 were females.

VICTORIA.

"civilized" aborigines were returned, which probably represented only a small portion of the whole; in Queensland only a few aborigines were returned in the first instance, but an estimate was subsequently made by officers of the Police Department, and the census figures were supplemented by the numbers so obtained; the figures for South Australia do not include the aborigines in the northern territory, and those for Western Australia only relate to the aborigines in service. No aborigines remain on the island of Tasmania; in New Zealand an enumeration of the Maoris was made by the officers of the Native Department, and this is believed to have been tolerably correct. The following are the returns obtained in the different Colonies:—

Aborigines enumerated in the Australasian Colonies, 1881.

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Victoria - - - -	460	320	780
New South Wales - -	938	705	1,643
Queensland - - -	10,719	9,866	20,585
South Australia - - -	3,478	2,868	6,346
Western Australia - -	1,640	706	2,346
Total - -	17,235	14,465	31,700
New Zealand - - -	24,368	19,729	44,097
Grand Total -	41,603	34,194	75,797

Birthplaces, 1884.

15. The following table has been constructed upon the assumption that the respective nationalities existed in Victoria during 1884 in the same proportion to the total population of that year as they did when the census was taken to the total population then enumerated:—

Birthplaces of the People of Victoria, 1884 (*estimated*).

Birthplace.	Mean Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Victoria - - - - -	274,661	272,648	547,309
Other Australasian Colonies - - -	21,202	22,483	43,685
England and Wales - - - -	94,790	67,197	161,987
Scotland - - - - -	29,098	23,756	52,854
Ireland - - - - -	45,745	49,300	95,045
Other British Possessions - - -	6,723	4,431	11,154
Germany - - - - -	6,818	2,630	9,448
The United States - - - -	1,826	756	2,582
China - - - - - -	13,031	61	13,092
Other foreign countries - - -	7,746	1,198	8,944
Total - - - -	501,640	444,460	946,100
Allegiance.			
British subjects (by birth) - - -	472,219	439,815	912,034
Foreign subjects („) - - -	29,421	4,645	34,066

Religions, 1884.

16. The next table contains a statement of the estimated number of persons of different religions in Victoria about the middle of 1884, the proportions which those of each religion bear to the total population being identical with those obtaining at the last census :—

Religions of the People, 1884 (*estimated*).

Religious Denominations	Mean Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England - - - -	182,555	159,004	341,559
Presbyterians - - - - -	76,290	69,160	145,450
Methodists - - - - -	63,667	62,483	126,150
Independents - - - - -	10,939	10,855	21,794
Baptists - - - - -	10,760	11,565	22,325
Other Protestants - - - -	12,744	8,365	21,109
Roman Catholics - - - -	111,677	111,407	223,084
Jews - - - - -	2,659	2,095	4,754
Pagans - - - - -	12,341	40	12,381
Other sects - - - - -	18,008	9,486	27,494
Total - - - -	501,640	444,460	946,100

Ages, 1884.

17. In the following table the numbers of either sex have been carefully brought on in quinquennial periods of age from the census of 1881 by means of a calculation based upon the age at which the survivors of those then returned and born since must have arrived about the middle of 1884, the numbers being supplemented by the excess of arrivals over departures, as recorded by the immigration authorities, the ages of those composing such excess having been estimated :—

Ages of the People, 1884 (*estimated*).

Ages.	Mean Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years - - - - -	58,932	56,870	115,802
5 to 10 „ - - - - -	57,123	55,368	112,491
10 to 15 „ - - - - -	55,765	54,822	110,587
15 to 20 „ - - - - -	56,164	53,788	109,952
20 to 25 „ - - - - -	54,438	52,021	106,459
25 to 30 „ - - - - -	40,508	37,709	78,217
30 to 35 „ - - - - -	26,121	23,501	49,622
35 to 40 „ - - - - -	22,780	21,168	43,948
40 to 45 „ - - - - -	24,565	21,066	45,631
45 to 50 „ - - - - -	26,612	20,351	46,963
50 to 55 „ - - - - -	27,865	17,737	45,602
55 to 60 „ - - - - -	21,773	12,174	33,947
60 to 65 „ - - - - -	12,714	7,511	20,225
65 to 70 „ - - - - -	8,843	5,243	14,086
70 to 75 „ - - - - -	4,027	2,653	6,680
75 to 80 „ - - - - -	2,150	1,570	3,720
80 years and upwards - - - -	1,260	908	2,168
Total - - -	501,640	444,460	946,100

VICTORIA.

Relative effectiveness of populations of Australasian Colonies.

18. It is evident that a population which relatively to the total number of units of which it is composed contains a great many children and very old people is not so physically effective as one which has a larger proportion of persons at the middle period of life. Speaking generally, it may be said that persons between 15 and 65 years of age are able to contribute largely to their own maintenance, and often to support themselves altogether, whilst those under 15 and over 65 are supported by others. Upon this principle, notwithstanding the continuous stream of adult immigration which has been flowing to most of the other Australasian Colonies under the auspices of the State, Victoria had, when the last census was taken, still a relatively stronger population than any other Colony of the group except Queensland. In this respect South Australia and New South Wales stood fourth and fifth, and New Zealand last. This will be seen by the following table, in which the Colonies are arranged in order according to the position in which they stood in regard to the proportion of persons at the sustaining, as contrasted with those at the dependent periods of life. The former are placed in the first column, and the latter in the last two columns:—

Relative Strength of the Populations of Australasian Colonies, 1881.

Colony.	Numbers in every 10,000 Persons living—		
	At Supporting Ages (15 to 65 years).	At Dependent Ages.	
		Under 15 years.	65 years and upwards.
1. Queensland - -	5,993	3,888	119
2. Victoria - - -	5,908	3,847	245
3. Western Australia -	5,891	3,855	254
4. South Australia - -	5,879	3,885	236
5. New South Wales -	5,768	3,987	245
6. Tasmania - -	5,692	3,821	487
7. New Zealand - -	5,604	4,254	142

Women at reproductive ages in Australasian Colonies.

19. In proportion to the total number of females, Victoria contained at the last census, a smaller number at the reproductive ages than South Australia, but a larger number than any other Australasian Colony. New South Wales and Queensland followed next in order, and then Tasmania; New Zealand being last on

the list. The following are the numbers living at such ages in each Colony and their proportions to its total female population :—

Women in Australasian Colonies at the Reproductive Period of Life (15 to 45 Years), 1881.

	Number.	Number in 10,000 Females living.
1. South Australia	59,434	4,561
2. Victoria	186,277	4,540
3. New South Wales	153,172	4,509
4. Queensland	39,638	4,504
5. Tasmania	24,234	4,439
6. Western Australia	5,567	4,404
7. New Zealand	96,144	4,370

20. The occupations of the people of Victoria have been brought on by proportion to about the middle of 1884, in the same manner as the birthplaces and religions :— Occupations 1884.

Occupations of the People, 1884 (estimated).

Occupations of the People.	Mean Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Ministering to government	5,228	264	5,492
„ religion	1,167	200	1,367
„ health	2,108	1,733	3,841
„ law	1,371	—	1,371
„ education	2,907	4,523	7,430
„ art, science, and literature	2,883	1,160	4,043
Traders	15,885	2,117	18,002
Assisting in exchange of money or commodities	7,356	714	8,070
Ministering to entertaining and clothing	16,288	29,287	45,575
Domestic servants	3,233	23,628	26,861
Contractors, artizans, and mechanics	50,849	1,145	51,994
Miners	39,092	5	39,097
Engaged in pursuits subsidiary to mining	919	3	922
„ pastoral pursuits and agriculture	85,424	44,775	130,199
„ pursuits subsidiary to grazing and agriculture	3,691	1,092	4,783
„ land carriage	15,959	369	16,328
„ sea navigation	3,612	26	3,638
Dealing in food	15,377	1,883	17,260
Labourers	26,389	4	26,393
Engaged in miscellaneous pursuits	1,026	111	1,137
Of independent means	2,614	1,262	3,876
Wives, widows, children, relatives, scholars	184,146	324,631	508,777
Public burthen	6,970	3,922	10,892
Of no occupation, unspecified	7,146	1,606	8,752
Total	501,640	444,460	946,100

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Urban and rural population.

21. The following is a division of the area of Victoria into three districts, also the estimated mean population of each district during 1884. The first of these districts (Greater Melbourne) is that comprised within a radius of 10 miles from the centre of Melbourne,* the second, the space outside that limit embraced in cities, towns, and boroughs (present or former); and the third the remainder of the Colony:—

Urban and Rural Population, 1884.

Districts.	Estimated Area in Square Miles.	Mean Population, 1884.		
		Total.	Proportions per Cent.	Persons to the Square Mile.
Urban — Metropolitan	256	322,690	34·11	1,261
Urban — Extra-Metropolitan	375	190,636	20·15	508
Extra-Urban or Rural	87,253	432,774	45·74	5
Total of Victoria	87,884	946,100	100·00	10·77

Increasing proportion of metropolitan population.

22. In 1884 the population of the metropolis was equal to more than 34 per cent. of that of the whole Colony. This proportion has a tendency to increase, as will be observed by the following figures:—

Proportion of Population of Melbourne and suburbs to Total Population of Victoria.

	Per Cent.
1861	25·89
1871	28·87
1881	32·81
1884	34·11

Increasing proportion of metropolitan population.

23. In the $3\frac{3}{4}$ years from the census of 1881 to the end of 1884, the population of Greater Melbourne is estimated to have increased by close upon 40,000 (39,743); the increase in the last year of the period (1884) being set down as 18,281.

Population of chief extra metropolitan towns.

24. Next to the municipalities embraced under the head of Greater Melbourne, the most important towns in Victoria are:—Ballarat, comprising three municipalities; Sandhurst, comprising

* Exclusive of water which covers about 58 square miles of the area named.

two; Geelong, comprising three; and Castlemaine, comprising two municipalities. The estimated populations of these with their immediate suburbs, in 1884, were as follow :— VICTORIA.

Population of Four Extra-Metropolitan Towns, 1884.

Town.	Population.	Town.	Population.
Ballarat - - -	41,073	Geelong - -	20,866
Sandhurst - -	36,822	Castlemaine - -	9,900

25. The area of the Australian continent is estimated to be somewhat under three million square miles, but that area, added to the areas of Tasmania and New Zealand, amounts to nearly three million one hundred thousand square miles, according to calculations being based on latitude and longitude and the generally accepted figure of the earth. Area of Australasian Colonies.

Areas of Australasian Colonies.

	Square Miles.
Victoria - - - -	87,884
New South Wales - -	309,175
Queensland - - -	668,224
South Australia - - -	903,425
Western Australia - -	975,920
Total Australia - -	2,944,628
Tasmania - - -	26,375
New Zealand - - -	104,027
Total Australasia -	3,075,030

26. It will be noticed that Victoria is by far the smallest Colony on the Australian continent, and the smallest of the group except Tasmania. If the whole continent were to be divided into 100 equal parts, the area of Victoria would embrace three such parts, that of New South Wales 10, that of Queensland 23, that of South Australia 30, and that of Western Australia 34. Victoria is thus less than a third of the size of New South Wales, little Area of Victoria and other Colonies.

VICTORIA.

more than an eighth of that of Queensland, about a tenth of that of South Australia, and less than an eleventh of that of Western Australia.

Overland migraion not recorded.

27. The Victorian returns of immigration and emigration relate to that which takes place by sea only; the results given would probably be greatly modified if the overland traffic, of which no record exists, were to be taken into account, more especially since the facilities for overland intercourse with the neighbouring Colonies are being rapidly increased by the extension of railways. For many years past two lines have extended from Melbourne to the River Murray, and complete railway communication now exists between the capitals of Victoria and New South Wales; railways also run westward in this Colony to within 40 miles of the South Australian border, the journey being continued onwards by means of coaches. With such facilities as these, it is natural to suppose that many persons about to come to Victoria from, or leave it for, one of the adjacent Colonies would find it more convenient to take the land route rather than that by the seaboard. As time advances there is little doubt that the records kept by the Immigration Department will less and less account for the actual immigration and emigration of the Colony. The insufficiency of the present returns of immigration and emigration to supply material for supplementing the returns of births and deaths for the purpose of forming estimates of population between the census periods, has more than once been brought under the notice of the Government by the Government statist, who has suggested that steps should be taken to obtain a record of the arrivals and departures overland; but it seems that difficulties at present supposed to be insuperable stand in the way of taking note of such persons, and therefore there is no alternative than to leave them out of account altogether. It is evident that supposing the returns of those who come and go by the sea-board are correct, and the births and deaths are all registered, the population estimates must always understate or overstate the truth, according as the arrivals or the departures overland are the greater.

Returns of arrivals and departures unduly swelled.

28. In consequence of the system pursued in keeping the records of immigration and emigration, the practice being to set down all who pass through Victorian ports on their way to other Colonies and countries as both arriving in and departing from this colony, the latter being situated between South Australia and Western Australia on the one hand and New South Wales and Queensland on the other, seems always to have an unduly large number of persons coming in and leaving, whereby an impression is created that great numbers come to Victoria, but being dissatisfied with their prospects in that Colony betake themselves elsewhere. If all are recorded accurately the result showing those who remain would be correct; still it is to be regretted that some means could not be found of keeping the account without including a number of persons who have had no

connexion whatever with the Colony, and perhaps may have never so much as even landed on its shores.

29. The arrivals and departures by sea recorded during 1884, also the excess of the former over the latter, were as follow :— Immigration and emigration, 1884.

Immigration and Emigration, 1884.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Arrivals by sea - - -	49,901	22,301	72,202
Departures by sea - - -	39,495	18,566	58,061
Excess of arrivals - -	10,406	3,735	14,141

30. The records of arrivals show larger numbers for 1884 than for 1883 by 5,610, and the records of departures show larger numbers for 1884 than for 1883 by 2,499; the apparent total gain by excess of immigration over emigration was therefore greater in the year under review than the previous one by 3,111. Gain by immigration, 1883 and 1884 compared.

31. In the last two years no free or assisted immigrants have been introduced into Victoria by the State, so that the system of State-assisted immigration may be said to have entirely ceased so far as this Colony is concerned. State-assisted immigration.

32. In Victoria a foreigner, even if naturalized, is not eligible to become a member of the Executive Council, but, with this exception, the highest offices of the State are open to persons of foreign as well as of British birth, and, without becoming naturalized, alien friends resident in the Colony may acquire real and personal property, and may convey, devise, and bequeath it in the same manner as if they had been British subjects by birth. Alien women married to British subjects thereby become naturalized, but to become a member or elector of either House of Parliament it is necessary for a foreigner to take out letters of naturalization, to procure which in accordance with the provisions of the Aliens Statute, 1865 (28th Vict., No. 256) he must present a memorial to the Governor, stating his name, age, birthplace, residence, occupation, period of residence in the Colony, and his desire to settle therein, which memorial must be accompanied by a certificate from a magistrate to the effect that he is known to be the person signing, and is of good repute. Should letters be granted the applicant before they are issued must take an oath of allegiance to the Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The following table shows the native Naturalization.

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countries of those who obtained letters of naturalisation during the year 1884 and the previous 13 years :—

Naturalization, 1871 *to* 1884.

Native Countries.	Thirteen Years: 1871 to 1883.	Year 1884.
France	33	11
Belgium	7	—
Holland	12	1
Austria	25	3
Germany	574	29
Italy	32	3
Spain	5	—
Portugal	1	—
Russia	26	4
Other European countries	303	12
United States	18	—
South and Central American States	1	—
China	1,001	601
Other countries	9	1
Total	2,047	665

Representation to population in Victoria and other Colonies.

33. Victoria returns 86 members to the Legislative Assembly or Lower House of Parliament, New South Wales returns 108, Queensland 55, South Australia 46, Tasmania 32, and New Zealand 88. A simple calculation will show that Victoria instead of sending 86 members to the Legislative Assembly, would return, were she represented in the same proportion as New South Wales, 124, as South Australia, 138, as New Zealand, 142, as Queensland, 222, as Tasmania, 238.

Proportion of members of Imperial Parliament to population.

34. The United Kingdom returns 650 members to the Imperial Parliament, viz., 485 for England, 60 for Scotland, and 105 for Ireland. The proportion of members to the population of the Uni ed Kindom in 1881 was one to every 54,255, or for England, one member to every 53,543 persons, for Scotland, one member to every 62,240 persons, and for Ireland, one member to every 45,332 persons.

Representation to population in Victoria and United Kingdom.

35. If Victoria were to be represented according to population in the same proportion as the United Kingdom she would instead of sending 86 members to Parliament, return only 16; if in the same proportion as England, she would also return 16; if in the same proportion as Ireland, about 19; and if in the same proportion as Scotland, 14.

Government Finance Account 1883–4.

36. During the year ended 30th June 1884 the revenue of Victoria exceeded the expenditure by 219,000*l.*, and as a credit balance of 95,000*l.* was brought forward from the previous year

it follows that the credit balance carried forward to 1884–5 amounted to 314,000*l.* :—

Revenue and Expenditure of Victoria 1883–4.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Receipts - - -	5,934,686	14	7
Expenditure - - -	5,715,293	3	5
Receipts in excess of expenditure - - -	219,393	11	2
Credit balance from 1882–3 -	94,680	4	3
Credit balance carried forward to 1884–5 - -	314,073	15	5

Revenue, 1883–4 and previous years.

37. The revenue of 1883–84 was the largest ever raised in Victoria. It exceeded the revenue of 1882–83, which was the year in which the largest revenue had previously been realised, by over 323,000*l.*, as already stated, and exceeded the revenue of 1881–82, which was the year in which the next highest revenue had been raised, by over 345,000*l.*

Expenditure 1883–4 and former years.

38. The expenditure of 1883–84 also was above that of any previous year, it being greater than in 1882–83, the year in which the next largest expenditure occurred, by 63,400*l.* Prior to 1853 the annual expenditure never exceeded one million sterling; from 1853 to 1872–73 it usually fluctuated between two and three millions; from 1873–74 to 1879–80 it was between four and four and three quarter millions, and in the last four years it has ranged from five to nearly five and three-quarter millions.

Heads of revenue, 1882–3 and 1883–4.

39. The various sources from which the revenue of Victoria is derived may be grouped in five main divisions, viz.: taxation, land revenue, revenue from public works, from post and telegraphs, and from other sources. The following is a statement of the amounts received under various heads in each of those divisions during the last two financial years:—

Heads of Revenue, 1882–3 *and* 1883–4.

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts received.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1882–3.	1883–4.		
TAXATION.	£	£	£	£
Customs duties (including also wharfage rates) - - -	1,769,004	1,769,108	104	—
Excise - - -	134,711	123,654	—	11,057
Ports and harbours (chiefly tonnage dues) - - - -	27,787	30,871	3,084	—
Licenses (business) - -	28,381	31,623	3,242	—
Duties on estates of deceased persons - - - -	86,648	77,154	—	9,494
Duties on bank-notes - -	28,685	28,575	—	110
Stamp duty - - -	133,433	133,651	218	—
Land tax - - - -	125,606	123,884	—	1,722
Total - - -	2,334,255	2,318,520	—	15,735

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts received. 1882–3.	Amounts received. 1883–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
LAND REVENUE.				
Land sales (including rents counting towards purchase money) -	563,790	614,548	50,578	—
Rents of Crown lands (not counting towards purchase money) -	114,845	103,189	—	11,656
Penalties under Land Acts -	1,298	1,572	274	—
Total - - -	679,933	719,309	39,376	—
PUBLIC WORKS.				
Railways - - - -	1,838,284	2,079,249	240,965	—
Water supply - - -	152,328	165,033	12,705	—
Other public works - -	2,357	1,866	—	491
Total - - -	1,992,969	2,246,148	253,179	—
POST AND TELEGRAPHS.				
Postal receipts - - -	242,826	262,322	19,496	—
Telegraph receipts - -	82,141	86,956	4,815	—
Total - - -	324,967	349,278	24,311	—
OTHER SOURCES.				
Mint charges - - -	11,292	10,415	—	877
Mint subsidy returned - -	4,103	4,852	749	—
Fees, fines, &c. (inclusive of fee stamps) - - - -	117,296	111,695	—	5,601
Interest on public account -	55,922	85,537	29,615	—
Rents (other than Crown lands) -	1,548	3,058	1,510	—
Reimbursements in aid* - -	33,570	49,441	15,871	—
Miscellaneous receipts - -	46,211	36,325	—	9,886
Total - - -	269,942	301,323	31,381	—
Total Revenue Proper -	5,602,066	5,934,578	332,512	—
Recoups or assets realised	9,187	109	—	9,078
Grand Total -	5,611,253	5,934,687	323,434	—

* Embracing amounts received by departments which are not charged, or are only casually charged, with the collection of revenue, such as reoceeds of the labour of prisoners, sums paid for the care of lunatics and of children in Industrial and Reformatory Schools; for the services of the police when specially applied for; for the sale of works by the Government printer; for the storage of gunpowder; for quarantine expenses, &c.

40. The following are the heads of expenditure during the years 1882–3 and 1883–4, also the increase or decrease in the latter year:—

Heads of Expenditure, 1882–3 *and* 1883–4.

Heads of Expenditure.	Amounts expended.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1882–3.	1883–4.		
GENERAL GOVERNMENT.	£	£	£	£
Civil list	29,926	31,127	1,201	—
Legislature	65,788	53,681	—	12,107
Civil establishment	117,610	113,628	—	3,982
Retiring allowances and pensions	60,569	65,689	5,120	—
Gratuities, compensations, &c.	28,256	31,062	2,806	—
Total	302,149	295,187	—	6,962
LAW, PROTECTION, DEFENCE.				
Judicial and legal	176,689	174,974	—	1,715
Police	204,561	216,973	12,412	—
Gaols and penal establishments	57,128	55,836	—	1,292
Defences	191,360	231,038	39,678	—
Total	629,738	678,821	49,083	—
EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CHARITY, &c.				
Public instruction, science, &c.	598,970	607,822	8,852	—
Charitable institutions, medical, &c.	267,400	259,983	—	7,417
Total	866,370	867,805	1,435	—
CROWN LANDS.				
Administration and survey	100,367	98,209	—	2,158
Agriculture, &c.	54,834	42,418	—	12,416
Mining	42,440	47,834	5,394	—
Total	197,641	188,461	—	9,180
PUBLIC WORKS.				
Railways	1,173,535	1,157,035	—	16,500
Water supply	34,534	31,472	—	3,062
Other public works	636,611	617,148	—	19,463
Total	1,844,680	1,805,655	—	39,025
POST AND TELEGRAPHS.				
Total	472,246	501,260	29,014	—

Heads of Expenditure.	Amounts expended. 1882–3.	Amounts expended. 1883–4.	Increase.	Decrease.
PUBLIC DEBT.				
Interest and expenses— Railways		1,078,192		
" " Water supply	1,180,576	118,560	34,494	—
" " Other works		18,318		
Total - - -	1,180,576	1,215,070	34,494	—
TRADE, NAVIGATION, &c.				
Customs - - - -	65,047	72,978	7,931	—
Harbours and lights - -	26,763	24,632	—	2,131
Total -	91,810	97,610	5,800	—
OTHER EXPENDITURE.				
Mint subsidy - - -	20,000	20,000	—	—
Aborigines - - -	7,498	10,857	3,359	—
Miscellaneous services - -	39,177	34,567	—	4,610
Total - - -	66,675	65,424	—	1,251
Grand Total - -	5,651,885	5,715,293	63,408	—

Public debt.

41. The public debt of Victoria amounted on the 30th June 1884 to 28,325,112*l.*, and consisted of moneys—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Borrowed in Victoria - - -	1,998,611	10	6
" " Great Britain - -	26,326,500	0	0
Total - -	28,325,111	10	6

Purposes for which loans were incurred.

42. The aggregate amount of the loans raised up to the 30th June 1884, was 34,252,312*l.*, but of this amount a total of 5,927,200*l.* has been repaid, viz., 2,103,100*l.* out of the ordinary revenue, and 3,824,100*l.* out of redemption loans. The amount of public debt authorised, the amount paid off, and amount out-

standing at the end of June, 1884, under each of the purposes for which the debt was incurred are shown in the following table:—

Purposes for which Loans were raised.

Purposes.	Authorised Amount borrowed.	Amount paid off.	Amount outstanding on 30th June 1884.
	£	£	£
Railways - - -	21,676,473	68,100	21,608,373
Water supply—			
Melbourne - - -	1,711,881	800,000	911,881
Country - - -	2,565,438	—	2,565,438
Graving-dock - - -	350,464	—	350,464
Law courts and Parliament Houses - - -	468,514	—	468,514
Public offices - - -	166,195	—	166,195
Defences - - -	100,000	—	100,000
State schools - - -	1,000,000	—	1,000,000
Yarra bridge - - -	60,000	—	60,000
Harbours, &c. - - -	250,000	—	250,000
Melbourne and Geelong improvements - - -	735,000	735,000	—
To provide for prospective loss on sale of debentures - -	31,747	—	31,747
Treasury bonds - - -	500,000	500,000	—
	29,615,712	2,103,100	27,512,612
Redemption of loans - -	4,636,600	3,824,100	812,500
Total - - -	34,252,312	5,927,200	28,325,112

Interest on debt.

43. The total sum payable annually as interest on the public debt is 1,287,188*l.*, but as interest on debentures held by the Goverment is not paid, and as a portion of the debt did not bear interest during the whole of the year, the amount actually paid in 1883–84 was only 1,117,709*l.*

Marriages, 1884.

44. The marriages celebrated in Victoria during 1884 numbered 7.218 as against 6,771 in the previous year. The excess in favour of 1884 was thus 447.

Marriages, 1884 and former years

45. More marriages took place in 1884 than in any previous year. The number solemnized annually had been almost stationary during the seven years prior to 1880, but in that year an advance was made which has been more than sustained since. In 1882, for the first time, the marriages exceeded 6,000; and in 1884, for the first time, they exceeded 7,000.

Marriage rate.

46. The ratio of marriages to the total population is generally called the marriage rate. This for many years had been declining in Victoria, for, whilst in the three years prior to 1863 it was

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above 8 per 1,000 of both sexes and all ages, from 1863 to 1865 it was between 7 and 8, and between 1868 and 1878 it was between 6 and 7 per 1,000. It reached its lowest point 5·98 per 1,000 in 1879, but since then it has gradually revived, and in 1884 amounted to 7·63, this being the highest rate that has prevailed during the last 20 years.

Births, 1884.

47. The births registered in Victoria during 1884 numbered 28,850 as against 27,541 in 1883. The increase in the year under review, as compared with the previous one, was thus 1,309.

Births in 1884 and former years.

48. During the 15 years prior to 1884, the number of births in Victoria had remained almost stationary, but in 1884 a marked increase took place, and the number was higher than in any previous year. In only one other year did the births exceed 28,000, viz., in 1873, but they then numbered 750 less than in the year under review.

Birth rate.

49. In 1884 births were in the proportion of 30·49 to every 1,000 of the population. The birth rate has been declining steadily during the last 20 years. The marriage rate also declined until 1879, but since then it has revived. There has not, however, been a corresponding improvement in the birth rate, which in 1884 was only higher by a fraction than in the previous year, which was that in which the birth rate was absolutely lowest.

Twins and triplets.

50. In 1884 239 twin births and 4 triple births were registered, as against 183 twin births, but no triple births in 1883.

Illegitimate births.

51. The illegitimate born in 1884 numbered 1,238, or one in every 23 births registered. In 1883 the number was 1,292, or one in every 21 births registered.

Deaths, 1884.

52. The deaths registered in 1884 numbered 13,505 as against 13,006 in 1883. The increase in the year under notice was thus 499.

Deaths, 1884 and former years.

53. Deaths were more numerous in 1884 than in any previous year except 1882, 1876, and 1875. The high mortality in the two last-named years, in which respectively 13,561 and 15,287 deaths were recorded, was due to the prevalence of measles and scarlatina in an epidemic form.

Excess of births over deaths.

54. The births in 1884 exceeded the deaths by 15,345, or 114 per cent., as against 112 per cent. in 1883. In the 19 years ended with 1884 the proportion averaged 121 per cent.

Mode of obtaining land from the Crown.

55. The conditions under which land may be obtained from the Crown in Victoria have recently been changed. Under the new law the best unsold portions of the public estate, amounting in the aggregate to 8,712,000 acres, are to be divided into "grazing areas" not exceeding 1,000 acres in size, each of which will be available for the occupation of one individual, who will be entitled to select within the limits of his block an extent not exceeding 320 acres for purchase in fee simple at 1*l.* per acre, payment of which may extend over 20 years without interest. The selected portion is termed an "agricultural allotment" and of it the selector is bound to cultivate one acre in every ten acres, and make other

improvements amounting to a total value of at least 1*l.* per acre. The unselected portion of the original area is intended for pastoral purposes, and for this the occupier obtains a lease at a rental of from 2*d.* to 4*d.* per acre for a period of 14 years, after which it reverts to the Crown, an allowance up to 10*s.* per acre being made by the lessee for any improvements he may have effected calculated to improve the stock-carrying capabilities of the land. Residence is compulsory if an agricultural allotment has been selected, but not otherwise; or by paying twice the amount of purchase money and expending upon improvements 2*l.* instead of 1*l.* per acre residence may be altogether dispensed with.

Number of cultivators.

56. The total number of farm holdings in 1884–5 was 38,139, of which 36,787 were in shires, 1,094 in cities, towns, or boroughs, and 258 in places outside of local jurisdiction. In the previous year the number of farms was 37,146, the increase being thus 993.

Land under tillage.

57. The extent of land returned as under cultivation amounted to 2,323,493 acres, as against 2,215,923 acres in 1883–4. The increase shown by the figures was therefore 107,570 acres.

Area cultivated per head of population.

58. The average area in cultivation to each person in the Colony was 2½ acres in the year under review as against 2 acres five years previously, and 1¼ acre 10 years previously. The exact proportions at the three periods were as follow:—

Average area cultivated to each Person in the Colony.

	Acres.
1874–5 - - - - -	1·29
1879–80 - - - - -	2·01
1884–5 - - - - -	2·42

Land under principal crops.

59. The principal crops grown are wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, hay and green forage. In 1884–5 as compared with 1883–4 a smaller area was placed under wheat, oats, and potatoes. The extent under wheat and oats, however, was larger than in any year except 1883–4. The extent under potatoes was exceeded in seven years besides 1883–4, viz., 1880–81, 1879–80, 1878–9, 1876–7, 1871–2, 1870–71, and 1869–70. The extent under hay was much larger than in any previous year. The extent under barley was exceeded in 1880–81, but in no other year; and the extent under green forage was exceeded only in the three years, 1878–9, 1877–8, and 1876–7. During the past nine years wheat was much more extensively cultivated than formerly. Prior to 1877, the extent under that crop never reached 400,000 acres, whereas in the last two years the area so cultivated has exceeded one million acres.

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The following table shows the extent of land under each of these crops in the last two seasons:—

Land under Principal Crops, 1884 *and* 1885.

Year ended March.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Green Forage.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1884 - - -	1,104,392	188,161	46,832	40,195	302,957	286,866
1885 - - -	1,096,354	187,710	62,273	38,763	339,725	332,859
Increase -	—	—	15,441	—	36,768	45,993
Decrease -	8,038	451	—	1,432	—	—

Produce of principal crops.

60. The gross yield of wheat was less than that in 1883–4 by over five million bushels, or nearly a third. Next to the quantity raised in 1883–4, however, it was by far the largest quantity ever produced in Victoria in one year. The yield of oats was below that in 1883–4 by 325,000 bushels, but that of barley exceeded the yield in that year by 13,000 bushels, and was the largest crop of its kind ever raised in Victoria. Notwithstanding the smaller acreage under potatoes, the yield of that crop was slightly above that in 1883–4 and was exceeded in only one previous year, viz., 1879–80. The hay crop was less by 62,000 tons than that in 1883–4, but after that was the largest ever raised.

The following is a statement of the gross produce of each of the principal crops in 1883–4 and 1884–5:—

Gross Produce of Principal Crops, 1884 *and* 1885.

Year ended March.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1884 - - -	15,570,245	4,717,624	1,069,803	161,088	433,143
1885 - - -	10,433,146	4,392,695	1,082,430	161,119	371,046
Increase -	—	—	12,627	31	—
Decrease -	5,137,099	324,929	—	—	62,097

Yield of principal crops, 1872 to 1885.

61. In 1884–5, over the Colony as a whole, the acreable yield of wheat, barley, and hay was as below; and that of oats and potatoes above the average; thus the yield per acre of wheat was lower than in any of the previous 13 years, except 1878–9, 1881–2, and 1882–3; that of barley was lower than in any except 1880–81 and 1882–3; and that of hay was lower than in any except 1882–3.

On the other hand, the yield per acre of oats was higher than in any of the years except 1879–80, 1881–2, 1882–3, and 1883–4; and that of potatoes was the highest in the 14 years. This will be seen by the following table, which shows the yield per acre of those five crops during each of those years, also the average during the whole period:—

Average Produce of Principal Crops, 1872 *to* 1885.

Year ended March.	Average Produce per Acre of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1872 - - -	13·45	18·76	20·00	3·22	1·40
1873 - - -	16·51	19·55	20·86	3·45	1·32
1874 - - -	13·58	15·69	19·84	2·86	1·27
1875 - - -	14·57	18·46	21·01	3·53	1·32
1876 - - -	15·49	21·92	22·20	3·37	1·33
1877 - - -	13·15	19·91	21·18	3·31	1·22
1878 - - -	12·41	19·39	19·81	3·11	1·17
1879 - - -	8·76	17·60	18·24	2·71	1·21
1880 - - -	13·29	24·00	24·67	4·04	1·45
1881 - - -	9·95	17·62	15·57	2·81	1·20
1882 - - -	9·40	24·57	19·07	3·43	1·13
1883 - - -	9·03	26·17	17·35	3·78	1·06
1884 - - -	14·10	25·07	22·84	4·01	1·43
1885 - - -	9·52	23·40	17·38	4·16	1·09
Mean - -	12·37	20·86	20·00	3·45	1·26

Live stock.

62. The breeding of live stock for which the climate and rich natural pastures of the Colony offer eminent advantages was the first Victorian interest which attained much magnitude. As cultivation advanced, after the first excitement consequent upon the gold discoveries had subsided, the propagation of animals was not neglected, and much attention was paid to improving the breeds of the various descriptions of live stock, especially sheep, with the result that Victorian wools invariably realise the highest price in the world's markets. According to the returns for 1884–5 the live stock in the Colony amounts to 293,846 horses, 1,287,945 horned cattle, 10,637,412 sheep, and 234,347 pigs. The numbers have been almost stationary for several years past, but with the opening up of the extensive mallee country, situated in the north-western portion of Victoria, a measure to promote the settlement of which has recently passed the Legislature, it may be expected that the improved carrying capabilities of the land will lead to a large increase in the numbers of live stock.

Pastoral occupation of Crown lands.

63. The mallee country, so called from the fact of its being, to a great extent, covered with the various species of stunted trees of which the native name is "mallee," embraces 11½ millions of acres, and is divided into blocks of various sizes, which are let on lease

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for pastoral purposes at a rental varying with their carrying capability, but in no case to be less than 2*s.* 6*d.* per square mile. Of the remainder of the Colony, an extent of 8,300,000 has been set apart for pastoral purposes, and is to be divided into "pastoral allotments," each capable of carrying from 1,000 to 4,000 sheep or from 150 to 500 head of cattle, which allotments are to be let, for a term not exceeding 14 years, at an annual rent of 1*s.* per head of sheep, and 5*s.* per head of cattle; the land is capable of depasturing.

Gold raised, 1883 and 1884.

64. The gold raised in Victoria in 1884 was 778,618 ounces, which is less than the quantity obtained in 1883 by 31,429 ounces, representing at 4*l.* per ounce a diminished value of 125,716*l.* The following are the figures for the two years :—

Quantity and Value of Gold raised in 1883 *and* 1884.

Year.	Gold raised in Victoria.	
	Estimated Quantity.	Value, at 4*l.* per oz.
	Ozs.	£
1883 - - - -	810,047	3,240,188
1884 - - - -	778,618	3,114,472
Decrease - -	31,429	125,716

Gold raised, 1871 to 1884.

65. From 1871 to 1879 the quantity of gold raised from year to year had been steadily diminishing, but in the next three years an improvement took place, which, however, was not sustained in 1883 and 1884, the yield in the latter year being less than in any other year since 1851, except 1878 and 1879. The following figures give an estimate of the quantity of gold raised in 1871 and each subsequent year :—

Estimated quantity of Gold raised, 1871 *to* 1884.

	Ozs.
1871 - - - -	1,355,477
1872 - - - -	1,282,521
1873 - - - -	1,241,205
1874 - - - -	1,155,972
1875 - - - -	1,095,787
1876 - - - -	963,760
1877 - - - -	809,653
1878 - - - -	775,272
1879 - - - -	758,947
1880 - - - -	829,121
1881 - - - -	858,850
1882 - - - -	898,536
1883 - - - -	810,047
1884 - - - -	778,618

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Gold raised, 1851 to 1884.

66. Carrying on to the end of 1884 the calculations given in previous years, the following may be estimated as the total quantity and value of gold raised in Victoria from the period of its first discovery in 1851. The figures give an average per annum during the whole period of about 1,582,000 ozs., which is more than twice the quantity raised in 1884 :—

Estimated Total Quantity and Value of Gold raised in Victoria, 1851 to 1884.

Gold raised in Victoria.	Estimated Quantity.	Value at 4*l.* per oz.
	Ozs.	£
Prior to 1884 - - - -	52,214,150	208,856,600
During 1884 - - - -	778,618	3,114,472
Total - - - -	52,992,768	211,971,072

Imports and exports.

67. In 1884 the total declared value of the Victorian imports was 19,201,633*l.* and that of the exports was 16,050,465*l.*; the excess of imports over exports was thus 3,151,168*l.*, and the whole value of external trade was 35,252,098*l.*

Imports and exports 1883 and 1884 compared.

68. The value of imports was greater in 1884 than in 1883 by 1,457,787*l.*, but the value of exports was less than in that year by 348,398*l.* The value of the total trade was thus greater than in the previous year by about 1,100,000*l.*

Imports and exports, 1884, and former years.

69. The imports in 1884, as indicated by their values, were higher than in any other year of the Colony's history; the exports in 1884, however, according to the same standard, were exceeded in the three previous years, but no others.

Imports and exports per head.

70. In the year under review the value per head of imports was 20*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*, and the value per head of exports was 16*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*, the former being higher by 19*s.* 1*d.*, but the latter was lower by 18*s.* 4*d.* than in 1883.

Imports of principal articles.

71. The values of 62 of the principal articles imported in 1884 are as follow :—

Imports, 1884.

	£
Books - - - - -	248,216
Stationery - - - -	95,915
Musical instruments - - -	110,013
Watches, clocks, and watchmakers' materials	99,067
Cutlery - - - - -	29,258
Machinery - - - -	249,925
Sewing machines - - - -	87,533
Tools and utensils - - -	35,423
Building materials - - -	111,328

	£
Furniture and upholstery - -	73,719
Drugs and chemicals - - -	96,694
Matches and vestas - - -	34,073
Opium - - - - -	52,294
Paints and colours - - -	81,659
Carpeting and druggeting - -	79,685
Woollens and woollen piece goods -	923,072
Silks - - - - -	266,040
Cottons - - - - -	946,305
Linen, piece goods, &c. - - -	44,825
Haberdashery - - - -	362,319
Apparel and slops - - -	315,903
Boots and shoes - - - -	100,756
Gloves - - - - -	95,672
Hats, caps, and bonnets - - -	120,684
Hosiery - - - - -	111,961
Bags and sacks (including woolpacks) -	270,772
Butter and cheese - - -	1,665
Fish - - - - -	159,338
Meats (fresh, preserved, and salted) -	8,337
Flour and biscuit - - -	18,774
Fruit (including currants and raisins) -	188,672
Grain, oats - - - -	52,082
,, wheat - - - -	9,194
,, other (including malt and rice) -	94,423
Sugar and molasses - - -	1,284,501
Beer, cider, and perry - - -	218,294
Coffee - - - - -	41,957
Hops - - - - -	20,486
Spirits - - - - -	433,203
Tea - - - - -	667,800
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff - -	217,309
Wine - - - - -	102,042
Candles - - - - -	45,905
Hides, skins, and pelts - - -	163,765
Leather, leather ware, and leathern cloth -	191,969
Wool - - - - -	2,575,905
Paper (including paper bags) - -	253,420
Timber - - - - -	733,766
Oil of all kinds - - - -	208,922
Coal - - - - -	412,697
Earthenware, brownware, and chinaware -	105,656
Glass and glass ware - - -	155,318
Gold (exclusive of specie) - -	718,817
Specie, gold - - -	549,798
,, other - - - -	4,962
Jewellery - - - -	63,602
Iron and steel (exclusive of railway rails, telegraph wire, &c.) - - -	664,945
Nails and screws - - - -	49,439

	£
Live stock	1,333,154
Fancy goods	94,658
Hardware and ironmongery	191,441
Oilmen's stores	17,680
Other articles	2,104,626
Total imports	19,201,633

72. The exports of 41 of the principal articles are in like manner given for 1884:— Exports of principal articles.

Exports, 1884.

	£
Books	87,053
Stationery	49,525
Machinery	136,319
Woollens and woollen piece goods	91,358
Apparel and slops	311,617
Boots and shoes	57,467
Butter and cheese	145,545
Meats, fresh and preserved	118,812
„ salted (including hams and bacon)	48,099
Flour and biscuit	339,811
Grain, wheat	1,429,715
„ oats	15,833
„ other (including malt and rice)	88,136
Potatoes	148,929
Sugar and molasses	232,479
Coffee	19,329
Spirits	112,023
Tea	359,325
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff	115,473
Wine	46,563
Bones and bone dust	13,331
Candles	13,055
Horns and hoofs	1,174
Hides	8,696
Skins and pelts	139,942
Leather, leather ware, and leathern cloth	371,497
Soap	16,186
Tallow	256,686
Wool	6,342,887
Bark	21,807
Hay, straw, and chaff	194,393
Timber	33,989
Oil of all kinds	51,272
Gold (exclusive of specie)	760,875
Specie, gold	1,249,420
„ silver	1,237

	£
Antimony, ore, regulus, &c. - -	3,796
Copper ore, regulus, &c. - - -	269
Tin, tin ore, and black sand - -	6,668
Live stock - - - -	762,988
Hardware and ironmongery - -	45,944
Other articles - - - -	1,800,447
Total exports - -	16,050,465

Exports of victorian products.

73. The following are the values of goods entered as the produce or manufacture of Victoria during the year 1884, the names of all the most important articles being given :—

Exports of Articles entered as the Produce or Manufacture of Victoria, 1884.

	£
Stationery - - - -	22,113
Agricultural implements - -	10,347
Machinery - - - -	98,468
Saddlery and harness - -	14,260
Furniture and upholstery - -	43,734
Manure - - - -	21,987
Drugs and chemicals - -	12,398
Woollens and woollen piece goods -	10,633
Apparel and slops - - -	257,269
Boots and shoes - - -	36,916
Cordage - - - -	29,312
Butter and cheese - - -	145,484
Hams, bacon, and lard - -	17,232
Beef and pork, salted - -	33,072
Preserved meats - - -	116,903
Biscuit - - - -	40,370
Confectionery - - -	13,062
Flour - - - -	277,556
Grain and pulse wheat - -	1,426,905
„ other - -	23,316
Fruit - - - -	38,021
Jams and preserves - - -	28,515
Oatmeal - - - -	28,540
Onions - - - -	38,710
Potatoes - - - -	148,929
Sugar, refined, and molasses - -	106,483
Vegetables - - - -	99,031
Wine - - - -	13,450
Bones - - - -	1,951
Bone-dust - - - -	11,380
Candles - - - -	3,655
Glue pieces - - - -	1,055

	£
Hides - - - -	8,696
Horns and hoofs - - -	1,174
Leather - - - -	338,029
Skins, sheep, &c. - - -	139,942
Soap - - - -	15,559
Stearine - - - -	6,247
Tallow - - - -	256,686
Wool - - - -	5,707,668
Bark and timber - - -	33,472
Bran and pollard - - -	16,102
Hay and chaff - - -	194,393
Seeds - - - -	13,722
Oil, neatsfoot, and ex tallow - -	9,016
Gold, bullion - - -	760,875
„ specie - - -	1,249,420
Minerals, metals, &c., exclusive of gold	31,858
Horned cattle - - -	235,019
Horses - - - -	171,732
Sheep - - - -	307,609
Plants - - - -	7,561
Hardware and manufactures of metals	24,911
Oilmen's stores - - -	15,421
All other articles - - -	439,315
Total - - -	13,155,484

Shipping.

74. Of the vessels which entered and left Victorian ports during 1884, 72 per cent., embracing 47 per cent. of the tonnage, were Colonial, 19 per cent., embracing 40 per cent. of the tonnage, were British, and 9 per cent., embracing 13 per cent. of the tonnage, were Foreign. Of the crews entered and leaving Victorian ports in that year, 51 per cent. were attached to Colonial, 38 per cent. to British, and 11 per cent. to foreign vessels. The following are the figures from which these proportions have been derived :—

Vessels entered and cleared, 1884.

Nationality.	Vessels entered.			Vessels cleared.		
	Number.	Tons.	Men.	Number.	Tons.	Men.
Colonial - -	1,422	735,941	32,151	1,442	762,891	33,050
British - -	385	632,888	25,233	367	618,591	24,356
Foreign - -	179	200,333	7,104	180	200,943	7,140
Total -	1,986	1,569,162	64,488	1,989	1,582,425	64,546

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Crews and proportion to tonnage.

75. The following figures show the proportion of crews to tonnage in Colonial, British, and foreign vessels. It will be observed that Colonial vessels are, numerically, the best manned, and foreign vessels the worst. It is to be remembered, however, that most of the Colonial, and many of the British vessels, are steamers, whilst a large proportion of the foreign ones are sailing vessels; and as steamers must have one crew to attend to the engines, and another to look after the sails and cargo, they necessarily carry more hands in the aggregate than sailing vessels.

Crews and Tonnage, 1884.

	Tons.
Colonial vessels had one man to - -	23
British „ „ - -	25
Foreign „ „ - -	28
All „ „ - -	24

Steam and sailing vessels.

76. The steamers and sailing vessels which entered and left Victorian ports in 1884, together with their tonnage and crews, were as follow:—

Steamers and Sailing Vessels Entered and Cleared, 1884.

Description of Vessels.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
INWARDS.			
Steamers - - -	1,393	1,226,584	56,689
Sailing vessels - - -	593	342,578	7,799
Total - - -	1,986	1,569,162	64,488
OUTWARDS.			
Steamers - - -	1,401	1,245,288	57,307
Sailing vessels - - -	588	337,137	7,239
Total - - -	1,989	1,582,425	64,546

Crews in steam and sailing vessels.

77. By means of the figures in the foregoing table it is ascertained that whilst steamers had one man to every 21 tons sailing vessels had but one man to every 45 tons.

Postal returns.

78. The following figures show the number of post offices throughout the Colony, and the number of letters, packets, and

newspapers which passed through them in the last two years. A satisfactory increase is to be observed in all the items :—

Postal Returns, 1883 *and* 1884.

Year.	Number of Post Offices.	Number despatched and received of			
		Letters.	News-papers.	Packets.	Total.
1883 - - -	1,295	30,962,167	13,982,222	5,401,330	50,345,719
1884 - - -	1,342	33,403,884	15,143,067	5,767,781	54,314,732
Increase -	47	2,441,717	1,160,845	366,451	3,969,013

79. The letters despatched and received were, to each head of the population, in the proportion of 33·7 in 1883, and of 35·3 in 1884. Proportion of letters per head.

80. Telegraphic communication exists in Victoria between 401 stations within her own borders. Her lines are connected besides with the lines of New South Wales, and, by means of them, with Queensland and New Zealand, also with the lines of South Australia, and, by their means, with Western Australia, the Eastern Archipelago, Asia, Europe, and America; also with a submarine cable to Tasmania. During 1884 the lines were extended by 360 miles, and the length of wire was added to by 784 miles; a fair increase also occurred in the number of telegrams. The number of stations, the length of lines and wire, and the amount of business done in the last two years are given in the following table :— Electric telegraphs.

Electric Telegraphs, 1883 *and* 1884.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of		Number of Telegrams.		
		Line (poles).	Wire.	Paid.	Unpaid.	Total.
1883 - -	365	3,660	7,271	1,037,429	437,543	1,474,972
1884 - -	401	4,020	8,055	1,120,626	473,670	1,594,296
Increase -	36	360	784	83,197	36,127	119,324

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Railways; miles opened and travelled.

81. By the following statement of the number of miles of railway open and the number of train miles travelled, and of the passengers and goods carried during 1883 and 1884, it is shown that a considerable increase took place in all the items, especially in the distance travelled and the goods traffic, which increased by 22 and 26 per cent. respectively. It must be borne in mind that in both years only a portion of the extent set down as open was so during the whole year.

Railways.—Miles Open and Travelled, and Passengers and Goods Carried, 1883 *to* 1884.

Year.	Extent Opened	Train Mileage	Passengers.	Goods and Live Stock.
	Miles.	Miles.	No.	Tons.
1883 - - -	1,562	5,701,513	26,485,304	1,881,760
1884 - - -	1,663	6,947,876	31,936,453	2,383,889
Increase - -	101	1,246,363	5,451,149	502,129

Receipts and working expenses.

82. The following were the railway receipts and working expenses during 1883 and 1884 :

Railways.—Receipts and Working Expenses, 1883 *and* 1884.

Year.	Receipts.				Working Expenses.	Net Income.	Proportion of Working Expenses to Receipts.
	Passenger Fares.	Freight on Goods and Live Stock.	Sundries.	Total.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1883 -	786,773	980,857	130,681	1,898,311	1,273,922	624,389	67·11
1884 -	867,120	1,181,225	147,804	2,196,149	1,335,800	860,349	60·82
Increase -	80,347	200,368	17,123	297,838	61,878	235,960	—
Decrease -	—	—	—	—	—	—	6·29

Wages.

83. The following table contains a statement of the average rates of wages paid in respect to engagements made in Melbourne in 1884, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennia. It has been compiled from statements obtained from the best authorities, and is believed to be fairly representative of a state of affairs which must always be subject to some fluctuations.

Throughout Victoria the recognised working day for artizans and general labourers is eight hours:— VICTORIA.

Wages in Melbourne.

Description of Labour.	1885.
Agricultural Labour.	
Farm labourers - - - per week, with rations	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Ploughmen - - - - „ „	20*s.* to 25*s.*
Reapers* - - - - per acre „	10*s.* to 15*s.*
Mowers* - - - - - per acre „	4*s.* to 6*s.*
Threshers* - - - - - per bushel „	5*d.* to 7*d.*
Pastoral Labour.	
Shepherds - - - - - per annum, with rations	36*l.* to 52*l.*
Stock-keepers - - - - - „ „	50*l.* to 75*l.*
Hut-keepers - - - - - „ „	26*l.* to 40*l.*
Generally useful men on stations - - per week „	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Sheep-washers - - - - - „ „	15*s.* to 25*s.*
Shearers - - - per 100 sheep sheared „	12*s.* to 15*s.*
Artizan Labour.	
Masons - - - - - - per day, without rations	10*s.* to 12*s.*
Plasterers - - - - - - „ „	„
Bricklayers - - - - - - „ „	„
Carpenters - - - - - - „ „	„
Blacksmiths - - - - - „ „	10*s.* to 14*s.*
Servants—Males and Married Couples.	
Married couples, without families - per annum, with board and lodging	60*l.* to 90*l.*
Married couples, with families - „ „	40*l.* to 50*l.*
Men cooks, on farms and stations - „ „	50*l.* to 60*l.*
Grooms, coachmen, &c. - - per week, „	20*s.* to 30*s.*
Gardeners - - - „ „	„
Servants—Females.	
Cooks - - - per annum, with board and lodging	40*l.* to 75*l.*
Laundresses - - - „ „	35*l.* to 52*l.*
General servants - - „ „	25*l.* to 40*l.*
Housemaids - - - „ „	25*l.* to 40*l.*
Nursemaids - - „ „	20*l.* to 40*l.*
Miscellaneous Labour.	
General labourers - - - - per day, without rations	6*s.*6*d.* to 7*s.*6*d.*
Stonebreakers - - - per cubic yard „	1*s.*6*d.* to 3*s.*6*d.*
Seamen - - - - - per month, with rations	4*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.*
Miners - - - - - per week, without rations	2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*

* Of late years the greater portion of the reaping, mowing, and threshing has been done by machinery.

84. Prices in Melbourne were quoted as follows at the same period. In country districts the cost of groceries, tobacco, imported wines, coal, &c. is naturally higher, and that of agricultural and Prices.

VICTORIA.

grazing produce, firewood, &c. naturally lower, than in Melbourne:—

Prices in Melbourne.

Articles.		1885.
	Agricultural Produce.	
Wheat	per bushel	3*s*.7½*d*.to4*s*.3*d*.
Barley	„	3*s*.6*d*.to 4*s*.7*d*.
Oats	„	2*s*.6*d*.to 3*s*.9*d*.
Maize	„	4*s*. 4*d*. to 5*s*.
Bran	„	10½*d*. to1*s*.2*d*.
Hay	per ton	3*l*. 10*s*. to 6*l*.
Flour, first quality	„	8*l*. to 10*l*.
Bread	per 4 lb. loaf	5*d*. to 6½*d*.
	Grazing Produce.	
Horses:—		
Draught	each	21*l*. to 46*l*.
Saddle and harness	„	10*l*. to 28*l*.
Cattle:—		
Fat	„	6*l*. to 19*l*.
Milch cows	„	5*l*. to 10*l*.
Sheep, fat	„	7*s*.6*d*.to22*s*.6*d*.
Lambs, fat	„	4*s*. to 14*s*.
Butchers' meat:—		
Beef, retail	per lb.	3*d*. to 8*d*.
Mutton „	„	2*d*. to 5*d*.
Veal „	„	5*d*. to 8*d*.
Pork „	„	6*d*. to 10*d*.
Lamb „	per quarter	2*s*. to 3*s*. 6*d*.
	Dairy Produce.	
Butter, colonial, retail	per lb.	8*d*. to 2*s*.
Cheese, colonial	„	5*d*. to 1*s*.
Milk	per quart	4*d*. to 6*d*.
	Farm-Yard Produce.	
Geese	per couple	6*s*. to 12*s*.
Ducks	„	4*s*. 6*d*. to 8*s*.
Fowls	„	4*s*. 6*d*. to 7*s*.
Rabbits	„	9*d*. to 2*s*.
Pigeons	„	1*s*. 6*d*. to 3*s*.
Turkeys	each	4*s*. to 12*s*. 6*d*.
Sucking pigs	„	10*s*. to 14*s*.
Bacon	per lb.	8*d*. to 1*s*.
Ham	„	10*d*. to 1*s*. 1*d*.
Eggs	per doz.	10*d*. to 2*s*. 4*d*.
	Garden Produce.	
Potatoes	per cwt.	2*s*. 6*d*. to 7*s*.
Onions, dried	„	3*s*. 6*d*. to 18*s*.
Carrots	per doz. bunches	6*d*. to 1*s*.
Turnips	„ „	5*d*. to 1*s*.
Radishes	„ „	4*d*. to 6*d*.
Cabbages	per doz.	6*d*. to 3*s*.
Cauliflowers	„	6*d*. to 4*s*.
Lettuces	„	3*d*. to 1*s*.
Green pease	per lb.	1*d*. to 3*d*.

Articles.	1885.
Miscellaneous Articles.	
Tea (duty paid) - - - - - - per lb.	1*s*.6*d*.to 2*s*.6*d*.
Coffee - - - - - - - „	1*s*.3*d*.to 1*s*.6*d*.
Sugar - - - - - - - „	3*d*. to 4*d*.
Rice - - - - - - - „	2½*d*. to 4*d*.
Tobacco (in bond) - - - - - - „	1*s*. to 4*s*.
Soap, colonial - - - - - - „	2½*d*. to 4*d*.
Candles, sperm, stearine, paraffine - - - - „	9*d*. to 1*s*.
Salt - - - - - - - „	1*d*.
Coal - - - - - - - per ton	25*s*. to 36*s*.
Firewood - - - - - - - „	9*s*.6*d*.to13*s*.6*d*.
Wines, Spirits, &c.	
Ale - - - - - - - per doz.	5*s*. 6*d*. to 12*s*.
Porter - - - - - - - „	„
Brandy - - - - - - - per gall.	22*s*.6*d*. to 35*s*.
Rum - - - - - - - „	15*s*. to 18*s*.
Whiskey - - - - - - - „	18*s*. to 28*s*.
Geneva - - - - - per case 15 bottles	60*s*. to 62*s*. 6*d*.
Port wine - - - - - - - per doz.	33*s*. to 72*s*.
Sherry - - - - - - - „	35*s*. to 75*s*.
Claret - - - - - - - „	32*s*. 6*d*. to 70*s*.
Champagne - - - - - - „	70*s*. to 105*s*.
Colonial Wine - - - - - - „	12*s*. to 30*s*.

For complete information on many points which have been merely touched upon, and on others which are not even mentioned in this digest, the reader is referred to the "Victorian Year Book,* 1884–5."

(Signed) HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 3.

Administrator Sir F. B. T. CARTER, K.C.M.G., to Colonel the RIGHT HON. F. A. STANLEY, M.P.

Government House, Newfoundland,
December 22, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward two copies of the annual Blue Book for 1884, together with the Hon. the Colonial Secretary's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. B. T. CARTER,
Administrator.

The Right Hon.
Colonel F. Stanley,
&c. &c.

* This is an official publication by the Government Statist, published annually, and may be obtained from the Government printer, Melbourne, the Agent General of Victoria, 8, Victoria Chambers, Westminster, or Trübner and Co., 57 and 59, Ludgate Hill, London.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY to the ADMINISTRATOR.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
St. John's, Newfoundland,
December 21, 1885.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for 1884.

Imports.

The imports for the year show a general falling off as compared with those of 1883, their aggregate value being $8,075,792 against $9,131,464. In the articles subject to ad valorem duties of 8 to 13 per cent. chiefly British manufactured goods there was a slight increase although the total import from the United Kingdom was deficient about $170,000. This resulted from a depression in the general business of the Colony, from unfavourable markets, and, in some degree, it may be assumed from the stoppage of railway work, which in the previous year had caused a considerable expenditure of money.

Exports.

The exports from the Island also show a decline, giving a total of $6,567,135 as against $7,058,738 for 1883. The deficiency was largely due to the short production of copper ore, and seal oil was deficient to the extent of 1,371 tuns, valued at about $202,000. The export of cod fish was 1,197,637 quintals, a small increase upon that of the preceding year.

The exports from Labrador amounted in value to $1,324,728, which added to those from Newfoundland proper give an aggregate export of $7,891,863.

Revenue.

The revenue from all sources, exclusive of loans was $1,209,316 against $1,262,702 for the previous year. A loan of $600,000 was raised for the construction of a dry dock in St. John's, $587,597 of which went into the revenue account of the year.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for 1884 was $1,812,917 of which $538,360 was paid on account of construction of the dry dock.

Public Debt.

The public debt was increased on the whole by $599,840, being at the end of the year $2,149,153 and in 1883 $1,549,315.

Savings Bank.

The Savings Bank return shows an increase of deposits of $115,945, aggregating $1,660,492 from 4,176 depositors. The profits of this institution are set apart for a gradual redemption of the Public Debt, and in 1881 $100,482 were appropriated to this object. There is now available for the same purpose a sum of $7,500.

Dry Dock.

The St. John's Dry Dock was opened in 1884, H.M.S. "Tenedos" being the first ship to enter it. It is the largest dock on this side of the Atlantic, being 600 feet in length. It has already done excellent work in repairs of ships, and gives promise of being a very successful enterprise.

Education.

The condition of education in the Colony is one of gradual improvement. The number of pupils within the schools supported partially and wholly by the Government was last year 26,313, in 1883 it was 25,349. The total cost of education to the Colony was in 1884 $97,217, so that a larger number are being educated now than ever before and at a smaller rate per head. At the same time the standard of instruction in the schools is higher, the older teachers being replaced by others who have been regularly trained and graded.

Census.

A census of the population of the Colony was taken in the Autumn of 1884. And the results appear in various returns in the Blue Book. The increase of the population which is altogether normal, there being no immigration to Newfoundland, has been very satisfactory. In 1874 the total population of the Island was 158,958 which increased in 1884 to 193,121 or 17·68 per cent. in ten years. A considerable emigration is usually taking place from some of the districts which has appreciably reduced the per-centage of increase.

Manufactures.

The exhibit of manufactures indicates fair progress in this department of local industry. It gives 191 factories and mills, employing 2,459 men, with a value of manufactured articles of $1,555,384.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. D. SHEA,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir F. B. T. Carter, K.C.M.G.,
Administrator.

GAMBIA.

GAMBIA.

Governor Sir S. ROWE, K.C.M.G., to Colonel the Right Hon. F. A. STANLEY, M.P.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
August 19, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a report by the Administrator on the Blue Book returns for 1884.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAMUEL ROWE,
Governor-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
Col. F. A. Stanley, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Index to Administrator Moloney's Despatch reporting on the Blue Book for 1884.

Pages.	Contents.
68–70	Taxes, duties, and fees.
70–72	Revenue and expenditure.
72–73	Local revenue.
73	Public debt.
73	Military expenditure.
73–74	Public works.
74–76	Legislation.
76	Legislative Council.
76	Civil establishment.
76	Pensions.
77–80	Population, marriages, births, and deaths.
77	The return of registered births, deaths, and Christian marriages for the years 1883 and 1884.
78	Return of births.
78	Return of marriages.
78	Return of deaths.
81–82	Articles of use or consumption.
82	Savings bank, friendly societies.
82–83	Churches.
83–86	Education, newspapers, &c.
86	Imports and exports.
87–90	Principal exports with quantity, value, and their direction from the Gambia for the past 10 years.

Pages.	Contents.
91–103	The value for the 10 years ended 1884 of the principal articles of import into the Gambia with countries whence brought.
104–105	Shipping.
106	Windward West African local carrying trade—1884, Entries of sailing vessels.
106	Windward coast—Entries of vessels.
106	Windward coast—Clearances of vessels.
107	Leeward West African local carrying trade, 1884—Entries of vessels.
107	Analysis as to flags and trade of foregoing Leeward coast—Entries of vessels.
107	Leeward coast—Clearances of vessels.
108	For 1884 an analysis of entries and clearances of steam vessels under flags and direction.
108–110	Of foregoing flags, arrivals, distinctions and distribution of trade.
108–109	British interest.
109–110	Foreign interest.
110–111	Table of entries and clearances of sailing and steam vessels with cargoes, and in ballast for the years ended and inclusive of 1884 :—
110	Sailing vessels.
111	Steam vessels.
111–114	Mail service and other ocean and intermediate means of sea communication.
114–115	Means of telegraphic communication with Europe.
115–116	Rates of passage—Money and freight from Bathurst, &c.
116	As regards west and south-west coast of Africa, rates of freight per British and African Steam Navigation Company homeward to Liverpool.
116–117	Average tariff for passengers and freight from Bathurst, and *vice versâ*.
117–118	Agriculture, cultivated and uncultivated lands, &c.
118–119	Manufactures, mines, and fisheries, &c.
119–120	Gaols and prisons.
120	Criminal statistics.
120	Apprehensions and summonses and disposition of foregoing cases.
121	Punishments in connexion with foregoing.
121	Indictments and information on the superior courts.
121	Statement as to ending of cases tried in the superior courts.
121	The number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last five years are afforded in the following comparative table.
122	Distribution of offences committed in the Settlement.
123	Hospitals and lunatic asylum.
123	Diseases treated.
123	General remarks.

GAMBIA.

Government House, Bathurst,
April 20, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the Settlement on the Gambia for the year 1884, with my report thereon.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

Under Ordinance of 30th November, 1863, besides a fee of 4*s.* for registration of each apprentice, a fee of 1*s.* was payable for every note in the register of change of residence, death, departure, or removal from the Settlement; under "The Registration of the Alien African Children Ordinance, 1884," which repealed former Ordinance, only one fee is payable, viz., 4*s.* for registration.

Under clause XL. of Ordinance No. 6 of 1882, entitled "An "Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the "Court of Requests," certain rules to regulate the practice and form of proceedings in the Court of Requests, with a table of fees to be taken therein, were passed on the 18th August 1884 by the Legislative council. The fees receivable according to the table are in addition to those prescribed in "The Courts Fees Ordinance, 1878."

The Gambia Coroner's Ordinance of 1884 provides that any coroner, or deputy coroner, other than managers who are, and will be, *virtute officii* coroners for their districts, shall receive for every inquest held —

		£	*s.*	*d.*
(1.)	In the Island of St. Mary's -	1	1	0
(2.)	„ British Combo - -	2	2	0
(3.)	„ Ceded Mile - - -	2	2	0

With reference to goods imported or brought into the Settlement, the Gambia Customs tariff, regulated under Ordinance No. 10 of 1883, entitled "An Ordinance to con- "solidate and amend the duties of Customs," stands as follows viz. :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Upon all spirits or strong waters, except brandy, not being sweetened or mixed with any article so that the degree of strength thereof cannot be ascertained by Sykes' hydrometer, for every imperial gallon of the strength of proof by such hydrometer, so in proportion for every greater or less strength of proof - - -	0	1	6
Upon all liqueurs, absinthe, cordial or sweetened spirits, or sweetened strong waters, or spirits mixed with sweetened waters so that the degree of strength thereof cannot be ascertained as aforesaid, per imperial gallon - - - -	0	2	0

	£	s.	d.
Upon brandies, without reference to strength, per imperial gallon - - -	0	3	0
Upon tobacco, unmanufactured, per pound -	0	0	3
Upon tobacco, manufactured, and cigars, per pound - - - - - -	0	2	0
Upon wines, without reference to strength, except claret in bulk, per imperial gallon -	0	1	0
Upon claret in bulk, per imperial gallon -	0	0	9
Upon malt liquors, per imperial gallon -	0	0	9
Upon cola nuts, per pound - -	0	0	1
Upon sugar, per pound - - -	0	0	1
Upon gunpowder, per pound - -	0	0	1
Upon breech-loading guns and rifles -	1	0	0
Upon other firearms - - -	0	4	0
Upon kerosine oil, per imperial gallon -	0	0	3
Upon salt, per ton of 2,240 pounds net weight - - - - - -	0	5	0

There is further charged and paid an export duty at the rate of 6*s.* 8*d.* per ton of 2,240 lbs. net weight, on ground nuts exported from the Settlement, except ground nuts imported into the Settlement and warehoused for exportation under certain conditions, regulated by provisions of Ordinance No. 10 of 1883. Drawback in full on security by bond given under terms of Gambia Customs Ordinance, 1882, or on such other security as may be approved by the Governor, as regards duty paid or bond secured, on exportation from the Settlement payable after six calendar months from date thereof, is allowed upon all wines, brandies, spirits other than sweetened spirits, tobacco, guns, or gunpowder. Claim for drawback must be made within one year of date of export shipment.

Under Ordinance No. 8 of 1882, entitled "The Gambia Customs Ordinance, 1882," it is lawful for the Collector of Customs to take bond, with two sureties as he shall approve of, in double the amount for payment within six months of duty exceeding at one entry 20*l.*

The consolidation of the laws for the collection of tonnage dues, was effected under Ordinance No. 11 of 1883.

Under above is payable, on each time of entry, a duty of 1*s.* per ton register measurement upon any ship, boat, or vessel of more than 15 tons register, whether British or foreign, and whether registered or not at the port of Bathurst.

There is an annual duty of 1s. per ton register measurement upon all ships, boats, or vessels solely employed within the river of more than 15 tons register measurement, whether British or foreign, and whether registered or not at the port of Bathurst on occasions of proceeding outside, they are liable additionally on each re-entry to conditions embodied in foregoing paragraph.

I may conveniently here say that an Ordinance, No. 1 of 1885, was passed by the local legislature on the 24th February last,

GAMBIA.

making it lawful for all foreign ships or vessels to navigate the River Gambia, subject in all respects to the same laws, rules, and regulations to which British ships or vessels are or may be subject.

Under Ordinance No. 2 of 1885, "An Ordinance to amend the Tonnage Dues Amendment Ordinance, 1883," which extended to Her Majesty's transports and vessels of war, and steam vessels carrying Her Majesty's Mails, under arrangement with the Postmaster General, or Colonial Government of the Settlement, exemption at port of Bathurst from all port charges, a like privilege was extended to all foreign transports and vessels of war, and to all pleasure yachts whether British or foreign owned, and whether registered or not at the port of Bathurst, the capital of the Settlement.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue, which was estimated at 25,029*l.*, is represented by 24,958*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* in 1884 as against 28,866*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* for the previous year, showing a falling off of 3,907*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, almost wholly under Customs receipts, which totalled 20,554*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* in 1884 and 25,215*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* in 1883.

Although there was an increase of 1,973*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* under certain headings for customs, due to increased rates of duty under spirits, tobacco, cola nuts, and gunpowder, as compared with 1883, yet decreases under other headings totalled 6,635*l.*

The difference between decreases and increases equalled 4,661*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, which included for 1883 132*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* export duty on hides, 2,105*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* *ad valorem* duty, and 126*l.* quarantine dues, duties which were abolished for 1884.

Again, there was a comparative decrease in custom receipts by 2,000*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* under export duty on ground nuts, by 1,078*l.* 1*s.* under tonnage, and by 560*l.* 12*s.* under import duty on wines.

The main falling off came, therefore, under ground nuts export and shipping, the latter being of course influenced by the richness or poorness of the former, and is to be attributed to the deterioration of the crop by disease and from non-manuring the ground, to the neglect of collection in some places by the alarm engendered by raids, especially in the country of Jarra, or by the adjoining presence of marauding warriors.

The following statistics will show the natural fitful condition of one staple article of export, which for the Gambia is represented by the ground nut.

Article.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Ground Nuts.	Tons. 19,019	Tons. 9,986	Tons. 15,938	Tons. 23,997	Tons. 22,890	Tons. 13,825	Tons. 16,958	Tons. 25,524	Tons. 53,094	Tons. 18,404

Customs control has not been yet extended to the Ceded Mile and therefore does not there apply; the consequence is that a free export trade thence to the adjoining French colony of Senegal

in ground nuts has regularly taken place. Foreign cutters from foreign ports visit the Ceded Mile for this produce. Indeed, there is nothing to prevent a large export taking place direct from the River Gambia by means of cutters and canoes which could, perhaps may, skirt the Barra shore so as to avoid the only port of entry in the Settlement, viz., Bathurst.

The following is a comparative statement of actual revenue for years 1883 and 1884:—

Heads of Revenue.	1884.	1883.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	20,713 14 10	25,215 9 4	—	4,501 14 6
Licenses	910 0 0	1,014 12 0	—	104 12 0
Rents, exclusive of land	577 10 6	472 0 4	105 10 2	—
Fines, forfeitures, &c.	320 8 5	310 4 0	10 4 5	—
Land revenue	39 0 9	132 13 6	—	93 12 9
Reimbursement in aid	257 17 4	111 17 2	146 0 2	—
Postage	213 18 5	102 13 8	111 4 9	—
Miscellaneous receipts	627 10 5	533 7 11	94 2 6	—
Fees of office	69 17 11	—	69 17 11	—
Auction duty	14 9 5	29 5 4	—	14 15 11
Interest	1,197 15 6	944 0 5	253 15 1	—
Special receipts	16 16 0	—	16 16 0	—
	24,958 19 6	28,866 3 8	807 11 0	4,714 15 2

The arrears of revenue for 1883, paid in 1884, amounted to 189*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*; while the arrears of revenue for 1884 paid so far in 1885 totalled 34*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*

The actual expenditure for 1884 has been 29,482*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* as compared with 23,862*l.* 15*s.* for 1883, showing an excess in former year by 5,619*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*

The estimated expenditure stood at 24,842*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, which has been exceeded by 4,639*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*

The expenditure for the last two years is shown in the following table, which, while it shows under certain headings of disbursement a decrease by 1,985*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, yet under other includes an increase by 7,505*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*

The following is a comparative statement of actual expenditure for years 1883 and 1884:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1884.	1883.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries, fixed	11,729 9 7	11,215 15 8	513 13 11	—
Do. provisional	824 14 3	987 12 3	—	162 18 0
Allowances	451 18 8	503 18 5	—	51 19 9
Contingencies	109 13 6	109 15 7	—	0 2 1
Pensions, &c.	1,170 15 8	1,277 8 11	—	106 13 3
Administration of justice, exclusive of establishments.	303 12 10	174 12 0	129 0 10	—
Education	—	49 14 3	—	49 14 3
Hospitals	303 14 6	547 8 3	—	243 13 9
Police and gaols	724 2 3	856 6 8	—	132 4 5
Charitable allowance	178 9 11	181 0 0	—	2 10 1
Aborigines	580 8 9	543 1 5	37 7 4	—
Rent	31 13 11	66 13 0	—	34 19 1
Transport	595 4 9	696 4 0	—	100 19 3
Conveyance of mails	1,100 0 0	2,200 0 0	—	1,100 0 0
Works and buildings	2,467 15 5	1,385 7 2	1,082 8 3	—
Roads, streets, and bridges	588 17 0	305 10 0	283 7 0	—
Drawback, &c.	674 15 7	309 6 6	365 9 1	—
Miscellaneous services	1,184 7 9	982 1 6	202 6 3	—
Revenue services, exclusive of establishments.	732 19 5	624 6 5	108 13 0	—
Government vessels	1,570 18 6	27 8 0	1,543 10 6	—
Special services	4,159 0 2	819 5 0	3,339 15 2	—
	29,482 12 5	23,862 15 0	7,605 11 4	1,985 13 11

GAMBIA.

Arrears for 1883 paid in 1884 amounted to 1,395*l.* 5*s.* special, extraordinary, and exceptional expenditure during last year, and for which, while there was approval, yet there was no provision in the estimates, amounted to 5,847*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* The normal and necessary expenditure of the year is thus reduced to 22,240*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, which includes the excess outlay over estimate by 474*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* under drawbacks, against the estimate of 24,862*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*

The extraordinary and exceptional expenditure was made up as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Oyster Creek Bridge - -	2,273	3	6
Proportion of purchase money of "Countess of Derby" - -	1,885	16	8
Purchase of new steam launch -	1,403	15	4
Gratuity to Rev. G. C. Nicol for services as registrar- - -	50	0	0
Quarantine expenses consequent on existence of yellow fever at Sierra Leone and cholera in Europe - - -	44	19	6
Salary of sheriff, and staff- -	85	16	1
Gratuity to Queen's advocate of Sierra Leone for services in case of Regina *v.* Johnson - -	37	11	0
Allowance to jurymen - -	66	0	0

It is right I should also mention that no expenditure occurred during the year under the following votes:—

	£
Grants in aid of education - -	500
Extension of court house, works and buildings - - - - -	1,500

And that the arrears for 1884 paid so far in 1885 amounted to 934*l.* 11*s.*

Local Revenues.

Under Ordinance No. 6 of 1879, intituled "An Ordinance to "re-enact an Ordinance to make better provision for levying a rate "for local improvements," there is imposed a local rate of 3 per cent. on annual value of all lots, not being the property of the Crown, on which buildings may or may not be erected in Bathurst, the capital of the Settlement, to which the operation of the Ordinance has been so far confined.

The rates received during 1884 amounted to 313*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*

This fund was treated as a deposit account under the control of the Administrator, who expended it as he thought best in accordance with the objects for which it was raised.

For 1885, and in future, the receipts will be treated as a head of revenue in the annual estimates, and equal provision for outlay will also be included.

Balance credit from 1883 was 97*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* and receipts for 1884 equalled 313*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*; total, 411*l.* 8*s.* The expenditure during 1884 was 381*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, which left a balance at beginning of 1885 of 29*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*, which has been absorbed as intimated and previously explained.

Public Debt.

There is no public debt of the Settlement on the Gambia.

On the contrary, there was a credit balance on the 31st December 1884 of 24,905*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*

Military Expenditure.

Imperial troops were last stationed here in 1870.

The local defensive force is represented by the police, who are composed almost exclusively of Sierra Leonians, intermixed with a few ex-West Indian soldiers.

This force numbers 111 of all ranks, and is commanded by a European superintendent. Its cost for the year has been 4,710*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* Consequent on the withdrawal of the Imperial troops from McCarthy's Island, a local artillery force or militia for that part of the Settlement was authorised under Ordinance of 4th June 1866.

An Ordinance, No. 1 of 31st January 1873, provided for the embodiment of an infantry militia force for service in British Combo, consisting as to strength of such commissioned, non-commissioned officers, and privates, as may be deemed expedient. This force was last called out in 1872.

The establishment of a volunteer force is provided for under Ordinance No. 2 of 1873. Little or nothing has been done to promote the operation of this Act.

Public Works.

Although no new works on a large scale were undertaken during the year, yet extensive and long-needed repairs and part renovation were effected at Bathurst, besides ordinary current repairs to buildings. New roofs had to be put on the police officers' quarters and barracks, gaol, meat and fish markets. The last building was also tile-floored and efficiently brick-drained. A new clock, for the convenience of the business part of this town, was supplied and fixed over the Customs warehouse; a dead-house was erected as a necessary outbuilding to the Colonial Hospital, the Colonial church was repaired and separated by means of a dwarf wall and palisade topping from the engineer yard.

The sea wall and embankment received necessary repairs. The public drains that most needed repairs received attention, and there was a certain extension of street lighting by the erection of extra lamp posts.

GAMBIA.

Much wanted improvement in a sanitary and decent sense has been partially effected by the supply to the town of Bathurst of three public latrines, erected over sites most convenient for those for whose use they are intended, and under the influence of the tides. The necessity for the continued conversion of the street drains into public dust-bins and general filth receptacles was removed by the supply, as required by law, of properly erected dust-bins at appointed places, and by their regular clearance by means of sanitary carts. Contents are buried at the low part of Half Die and go to systematically fill up that quarter.

The Combo bridges had certain temporary attention pending their general renovation. The roads and paths in British Combo were, to my satisfaction, cleared by the people of that district, who exhibited, in connexion with the work, much good sense and ready willingness to meet the wishes of the Government; certain essential repairs to the buildings at Cape St. Mary, to make them habitable and respectable, were carried out. The main road, over seven miles long, between Bathurst and Cape St. Mary was cleaned to a breadth of 20 feet. This service had not been so thoroughly performed for sometime previous.

At Albreda, in the Ceded Mile, a new roof, doors, windows, and partition were given to the Police Station.

At McCarthy's Island, the manager's quarters and market place required and received repairs, and a new tile roof was put on the gun store there.

Legislation.

The following Ordinances have been passed during the year by the Legislature of the Gambia:—

No. 1 of 9th January 1884, "The Appropriation Ordinance, 1884."

No. 2 of 15th February 1884, "An Ordinance to prevent the "use or discharge of guns in the town of Bathurst." This was found desirable to guard against the indiscriminate use of firearms in the town of Bathurst and the consequent dangers.

No. 3 of 15th February 1884, "The Gaol Ordinance, 1884."

The following Ordinances contained from time to time all provisions for the management and government of gaols in the Settlement:—

Ordinance of 23rd June, 1849, entitled "An Ordinance to "establish improved regulations and discipline in the gaols of "the British Settlements on the Gambia."

Ordinance of 15th July 1852, entitled "An Ordinance to "establish certain rules of practice for the Supreme Court and "to enable the officer administering the Government and the "Legislative Council to frame or alter by resolutions all rules "for the better regulation and discipline of gaols."

Ordinance No. 2 of 1872, entitled "Penal Servitude Ordinance of 1872"

Ordinance No. 7 of 1873, intituled "The Gaol Ordinance, 1883."

The powers granted under the foregoing were deemed to be, in certain parts, excessive, insufficient, and, in respect to corporal punishment too comprehensive: it was accordingly deemed expedient to pass Ordinance No. 3 of 1884, which was formed on the basis of the Sierra Leone Ordinances No. 11 of 1881 and No. 11 of 1882.

No. 4 of 28th June 1884, "An Ordinance for removing doubts "as to matters or things done, committed, or executed by Zachariah "Thomas Gibson, acting as Deputy Sheriff of the Settlement on "the River Gambia, and of all bailiffs and other subordinate "officers acting under the authority of the said Zachariah Thomas "Gibson, between the 28th day of September 1883 and the 31st "day of December 1883, both dates inclusive."

Here the title sufficiently explains necessity for this legislation.

No. 5 of 18th August 1884, "The Court of Civil and Criminal "Justice Amendment Ordinance, 1884."

The object of this Ordinance is to enable suitors to serve, or procure service of, writs of summons without the aid of the Sheriff and to relieve the Sheriff of the responsibility for service of such writs.

The Ordinance further gives power to the Sheriff to take in execution, under a writ of Fieri facias, moneys, bank notes, negotiable instrument, and other securities for moneys.

No. 6 of 9th September 1884," The Supplementary Appropria- "tion Ordinance, 1883."

No. 7 of 10th September 1884, "The Imprisonment with Hard "Labour Ordinance, 1884."

This Settlement has but one prison and one system. Effectual means of enforcing sentences of penal servitude do not consequently exist, and expediency accordingly suggested the abolition of sentences of penal servitude and the substitution therefor of sentences of imprisonment with hard labour, and for the consequent enlargement of the discretionary powers vested in the Court of the Settlement on the Gambia in awarding sentences of imprisonment with hard labour up to the maximum, but without regard to the minimum period for which sentences of penal servitude might have been awarded.

No. 8 of 10th September 1884, "The Registration of Alien "African Children Ordinance, 1884."

As it was found that sufficient provision for the personal protection against possible servitude, and for the future welfare of alien African children, was not afforded under Ordinance of the 30th November 1863, entitled "An Ordinance to repeal the "Apprentice Ordinance and to make other provisions in lieu "thereof," more stringent and comprehensive legislation was deemed desirable.

No. 9 of 3rd December 1884, "Gambia Coroner's Ordinance, "1884."

GAMBIA.

The unsatisfactory state of the law of the Gambia in regard to the appointment of coroners brought about this legislation.

More comprehensiveness and adequacy were deemed desirable, and have been supplied.

No. 10 of 5th December 1884, "The Gambia Explosives Ordi-"nance."

No. 11 of 5th December 1884, "The Treasury Savings Bank "Ordinance, 1884."

The evident importance that facilities should be provided for the investment of small savings brought about the passing of this Act, the operation of which should prove of material benefit to the people of this Settlement.

Legislative Council.

There has been no change in the Council during the year.

Civil Establishment.

Among the important official changes on record during the year stand the appointment, on the 26th January 1884, as Administrator of the Government of the Settlement on the Gambia, of C. Alfred Moloney, Esquire, C.M.G., in succession to V. S. Gouldsbury, Esquire, C.M.G., whose period of local government had expired. The latter left the Settlement on the 3rd March 1884 and the former assumed the administration on the 10th March 1884.

The appointment, on the 4th March 1884, by the Earl of Derby, of J. Renner Maxwell, Esquire, M.A., B.C.L., a native gentleman (Sierra Leonian), to be Queen's Advocate, Registrar of Deeds, and Colonial Registrar; he assumed his duties on the 2nd of April.

The death, on the 2nd of April, of Mr. Pearce, a native (Sierra Leonian), Manager of British Combo.

The appointment, on the 23rd June, of Mr. J. H. Finden, a local native gentleman, to be Manager of British Combo.

The appointment, on 1st May, of Hon. James Topp to be Coroner for the Settlement, vice Hon. G. T. Carter, whose departure on leave of absence brought about his resignation of the office.

Pensions.

The expenditure on pension list for 1884 totalled 1,117*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.**
As compared with previous year there was an addition at the rate of 107*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* for Mr. Bauer, late Colonial Engineer, whose health necessitated retirement.

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* Includes 261*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* arrears.

Population, Marriages, Births, and Deaths.

According to the census taken in 1881, the population of the Settlement represented then a total of 14,150, made up as follows:—

——	Males.	Females.
Bathurst (Island of St. Mary) -	2,790	3,348
Ceded Mile - - -	2,289	1,758
British Combo - - -	1,632	1,425
McCarthy's Island - - -	504	404
Total - -	7,215	6,935

Of the foregoing total there were only 105 Europeans.

The religious views of the population at the time were represented in the following table:—

Heading.	Number.
Wesleyan - - - - -	2,012
Roman Catholic - - - - -	979
Episcopalians - - - - - -	819
Presbyterians - - - - - -	10
Other Christian persuasion - - - -	5
Mahomedans - - - - -	5,800
Pagans - - - - - -	5,025
Total - - - -	14,150

The return of registered births, deaths, and Christian marriages for the years 1883 and 1884 stands as follows:—

——	1883.	1884.	Increase.	Decrease.
Births - - -	77	128	51	—
Deaths - - -	389	391	2	—
Marriages - -	Register for this and previous years a blank.	16	—	—

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The Registrar reports that the deaths for 1883 and for 1884 up to September, are for Bathhurst (really for the island of St. Mary), but from that date deaths in British Combo began to be added to the register; they were returned as 33, so that Bathurst deaths stand for 1884 at 358 as compared with 389 in 1883. Births registered in 1883 appear to be for Bathurst. The figures for 1884 are made up of 126 for Bathurst and 2 for British Combo. The marriage register has been a blank from want of information from 1871 to 1884.

Particulars of Christian births, deaths, and marriages supplied by the heads of the different denominations are embodied in the following returns.

Return of Births.

Christian Religious Denomination.	1883.	1884.	Increase.	Decrease
Roman Catholic - - - -	150	133	—	17
Wesleyan - - - - -	No record kept.			
Church of England - - - -	No record kept.			
Total - - - -	150	133	—	17

Return of Marriages.

Christian Religious Denomination.	1883.	1884.	Increase.	Decrease.
Wesleyan - - - - -	10	5	—	5
Church of England - - - -	8	8	—	—
Roman Catholic - - - -	1	3	2	—
Total - - - -	19	16	2	5

Return of Deaths.

Christian Religious Denomination.	1883.	1884.	Increase.	Decrease.
Roman Catholic - - - -	48	42	—	6
Wesleyan - - - - -	37	46	9	—
Church of England - - - -	16	4	—	12
Total - - - -	101	92	9	18

The foregoing particulars are rendered under Ordinance of 12th May 1845, on which as to its partial operation I expressed my views in report on Blue Book for 1883 as well as on local death

rate. I may add that registration now extends to the whole Settlement, so that more full statistics will in future be available.

According to the statistics afforded by the Registrar, the following tables embody births and deaths registered in Bathurst for 1883 and 1884 with causes of deaths as far as they can be pronounced.

1883.

Settlement.	Births.						Total.
	Males.			Females.			
	White.	Black.	Mulatto.	White.	Black.	Mulatto.	
Bathurst - -	—	38	—	—	37	2	77
Total - -	—	38	—	—	37	2	77

(*Continued.*

Settlement.	Deaths.						Sexes unascertained.	Total.
	Males.			Females.				
	White.	Black.	Mulatto.	White.	Black.	Mulatto.		
Bathurst -	9 7 adults 2 infants	205 120 adults 85 infants	3 2 adults 1 infant	—	108 59 adults 49 infants	1	63	389
Total -	9	205	3	—	108	1	63	389

Uncertain causes of death, 221; apoplexy, 1; abscess, 2; bronchitis, 2; convulsion, 5; cachexia, 1; cardiac diseases, 3; childbirth, 1; dropsy, 9; debility, 3; dysentery, 3; diarrhœa, 6; diseases of digestive system, 36; diseases of nervous system, 12; diseases of respiratory system, 20; erysipelas, 1; epilepsy, 1; fracture of skull, 1; gangrene, 1; hepatitis, 3; leprosy, 2; meningitis, 1; morbilli, 12; paralysis, 1; peritonitis, 1; parotitis, 2; phthisis, 5; puerperal fever, 1; rheumatism, 1; senile decay, 3; tetanus, 2; wounds, 1; &c.

1884.

Settlement.	Births.						Total.
	Males.			Females.			
	White.	Black.	Mulatto.	White.	Black.	Mulatto.	
Bathurst - -	—	74	3	—	45	6	128
Total - -	—	74	3	—	45	6	128

GAMBIA.

(*Continued.*)

Settlement.	Deaths.						Sexes unascertained.	Total.
	Males.			Females.				
	White.	Black.	Mulatto.	White.	Black.	Mulatto.		
Bathurst -	5	214 124 adults 90 infants	3	—	156	3	10	391
Total -	5	214	3	—	156	3	10	391

Unreliable statement of deaths, 128; asthma, 3; ague, 4; bronchitis, 2; burns, 2; cerebritis, 1; concussion of brain, 2; child-birth, 3; carbuncle, 2; cirrhosis, 1; cardiac syncope 2; cardiac diseases, 7; cancer, 1; drowning, 4; diarrhœa, 6; dysentery 6; debility, 8; &c.

Under the Apprentice Ordinance of 1863, there were registered, from 1st January to 20th October 1884, 31 apprentices, and for 1883, 34.

The foregoing Act was repealed by the Registration of Alien African Children Ordinance, No. 8 of 1884, which came into operation on the 21st October, 1884, and between that date and the end of the year there were registered 253 alien children, made up of 44 males and 209 females as under:—

No.	Tribe or Nation.	Analysis of Ages.
188	Jolahs - - -	23 of 11 years.
31	Mandingoes - -	11 „ 6 „
1	Polos - - -	23 „ 7 „
19	Wolloffs - - -	40 „ 8 „
1	Labous - - -	35 „ 9 „
1	Balantas - - -	16 „ 2 „
2	Timanis - - -	15 „ 13 „
1	Cabboonkas - -	12 „ 5 „
1	Akus - - -	14 „ 15 „
1	Corankus - - -	10 „ 16 „
1	Susoos - - -	16 „ 14 „
1	Bamburas - - -	30 „ 10 „
2	Seréres - - -	1 „ $2\frac{1}{2}$ „
1	Mendis - - -	4 „ 3 „
1	Eboe and Foulah - -	3 „ 2 „
1	Wasuloonkas - -	
253		

Temporary removals, under authority, of aliens, during the same period of 1884 were 10.

The Registrar has instructions to render me a Quarterly Report on the working of Ordinance No. 8 of 1884, which will be carefully followed in its operation, that the benefit and protection intended for alien African children may be enjoyed by them.

Articles of use or Consumption.

For future visitors or residents, the following average local prices of various articles of ordinary use or consumption may prove of advantage :—

Articles.	Sterling Prices.	Seasons.
Wheaten flour - per brl. of 196 lbs.	2*l.* 5*s.* to 2*l.* 10*d.*	Variation depends on American and English markets.
Wheaten flour - - per lb.	3*d.*	
Bread - - - „	3*d.*	
Milk - - per bott.	6*d.*	
Cheese - - - per lb.	1*s.* 6*d.*	
Beef - - - „	5*d.* to 9*d.*	
Mutton - - - „	1*s.*	
Goat meat - - - „	9*d.*	
Pork - - - „	9*d.*	
Rice - - - „	2½*d.*	
Coffee - - - „	1*s.* 3*d.*	
Tea - - - „	3*s.* to 4*s.*	
Sugar - - „	6*d.* to 9*d.*	
Salt - - - per bus.	1*s.* 6*d.*	
„ Table - - „ bott.	2*s.*	
Brandy - - - „	4*s.* to 6*s.*	
Fowls, alive - - each	6*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*	
Ducks „ - - „	2*s.*	
Pigeons, tame - - „	1*s.*	
„ wild - - „	3*d.* to 6*d.*	
Partridges, local - - „	1*s.* to 6*d.*	
Rabbits - - - „	1*s.* 6*d.* to 9*d.*	
Fish - - - - „	4 to 1*d.*	Dependent on sizes and quality.
Oysters - - - „	Very cheap.	January to May.
Eggs - - - for 14	1*s.*	
Wines:—		
Claret - - - per bott.	1*s.* to 9*d.*	
Sherry - - - „	6*s.* to 3*s.*	
Port - - - „	8*s.* to 4*s.*	
Firewood - - - per cord	4*s.*	
Hams - - - per lb.	1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.*	
Bacon - - - „	1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.*	
Starch (Sierra Leone) - „	6*d.*	
Arrowroot (Sierra Leone) „	1*s.*	
Tomatoes, fresh - - per bask.	2*s.* 6*d.*	
Chalots - - - „	1*s.* to 9*d.*	
Sweet potatoes - - „	3*d.* for 6 to 3*d.*	
Colah nuts - - „	3*d.* to 1*d.* each.	
Palm oil - - - per bott.	1*s.*	
Palm kernel oil - - „	1*s.*	
Charcoal - - - per bask.	6*d.*	
Tobacco in leaf - - per lb.	1*s.* 3*d.*	
„ manufactured - „	8*s.* to 5*s.*	
Rice - - - „	2*d.* to 2½*d.*	
Lemonade - - per doz.	8*s.*	
Soda Water - - - „	8*s.*	
Beer - - - per bott.	1*s.*	
Kous country corn for horses - - - per bus.	4*s.*	
Ground nut grass for horses -	—	5 to 12 bundles for 1*s.* according to size and time of year.

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Clothes washing costs from 1*l.* to 2*l.* per month. Fruits, such as oranges, tamarinds, bananas, Avocado pears, guavas, pine-apples, are locally obtainable or securable from Sierra Leone. Irish potatoes and onions are obtained generally from the Canary Islands or Madeira, or can be bought on board the mail steamers at 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* per basket.

Savings Bank, Friendly Societies, &c.

The Treasury Savings Bank Ordinance was passed on the 5th December 1884 and provides for the granting facilities for depositing small savings at interest with the security of the revenue of the Settlement on the River Gambia for due repayment thereof. Its coming into operation awaits Her Majesty's pleasure: the 1st January 1886 has been proposed.

No banking establishment exists in this Settlement. This Ordinance partially provides for such a want, and should accordingly protect and monetarily benefit those whom it is the chief aim of the legislature to assist: viz., the industrial classes who indeed are largely represented at present in the local friendly societies, which numbered 20 on the 31st March 1885, with balances in hand on that date which totalled 469*l.* 3*s.* 3½*d.* The proceedings of friendly societies or clubs within the settlement on the Gambia are regulated by the provisions of Ordinance of the 14th June 1865. The state of the local law will not debar the treasurers of such societies from taking advantage of the increased security and benefits to be expected from the Savings Bank Ordinance.

Churches.

The following return of the churches and other buildings used for public worship, and clergy for 1884, is compiled from the information received from the heads of the different Christian religious bodies:—

Christian Religious Denominations.	No. of Clergy.	Churches and other Buildings for Public Worship.		No. of Persons generally attending.	Remarks.
		Number.	Persons for whom there is accommodation.		
Wesleyan	2	6	2,550	1,269	
Roman Catholic	4	1	600	500	
Episcopalian	1	1	280	230	
Total	7	8	3,430	1,999	

The labours of these bodies are chiefly confined to the Settlement.

The following table will show the position of the Mohammedans in Bathurst, the capital of the Settlement:—

Denomination.	Number of Almani.	Building used for Worship.		No. of persons generally attending.	Remarks.
		Number.	Accommodation for		
Mohammedans - -	1	1	400	200	

Education, Newspapers, &c.

No Government school at present exists in this Settlement. To the Christian religious bodies must be given all credit in this direction. The following particulars are taken from the educational returns for 1884 rendered by the heads of the Christian denominations.

Christian Religious Denomination.	Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Scholars on Register.		Total.	Remarks.
				Males.	Females.		
Wesleyan - -	1884	7	11	313	234	547	Cost, 308*l.* 9*s.* 3½*d.* Voluntary contribution.
Roman Catholic -	1884	3	7	135	100	235	Voluntary contribution.
Church of England -	1884	1	2	30	20	50	Voluntary contribution. Cost, 48*l.* per annum.
Total - -	-	11	20	478	354	832	

The educational labours, through native agency, of the Wesleyan Mission extend to McCarthy's Island, Albreda, and Barra (in the Barra district) and to British Combo. The other Christian bodies confine themselves for the present to the Island of Saint Mary's.

Followers of Islam, although in rare instances their children are to be found in Christian schools, have their own Mohammedan schools; their labours are directed mainly to the promotion of the tenets of Mohammed, their instruction being almost exclusively confined to the teaching of Arabic to its grammar up to the Koran, and to imparting a knowledge of Mohammedan history.

There are eight Mohammedan schools in the town of Bathurst, as follows:—

Denomination.	Year.	No. of Schools.	No. of Instructors.	Scholars.		Total.	Remarks.
				Male.	Females.		
Mohammedans.	1884	8	9	125	55	180	—

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For 1881, 1882, and 1883 the following statement will afford comparative information :—

Numerical No.	Christian denomination.	1882. Number of Schools.			1883. Number of Scholars.			Increase.	Decrease in 1883 as compared with 1882.
		Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.		Total.
1	Wesleyan -	333	222	555	294	178	472	—	83
2	Roman Catholic	188	205	393	168	164	332	—	61
3	Church of England - -	41	85	126	19	23	42	—	84
		—	—	1,074	—	—	846	—	228

Numerical No.	Christian Denomination.	1881. No. of Scholars.			Total.
		Male.	Female.	Total.	
1	Wesleyan - -	248	168	—	417
2	Roman Catholic -	120	130	—	250
3	Church of England -	62	80	—	142
—		—	—	—	809

According to the census of 1881 there were then in the Settlement 2,413 male children between the age of 1 and 20, and female children between like years numbered 2,679; local statistics do not admit of my bringing these figures up to date.

However, with their use and those in foregoing tables, the per-centage of Christian school children (I may say almost exclusively) for 1881, 1882, 1883, and 1884 as compared with total 5,092, is represented by 15·88, 21·09, 16·61, and 16·34. In 1881 the population of this Settlement, which numbered 14,150, was composed of 3,825 Christians, 5,300 Mohammedans, and 5,025 pagans, and represented respectively a per-centage of 27·03, 37·6, 35·37.

Although this Settlement is the oldest of Her Majesty's possessions in the continent of Africa, yet its educational standard, so far as I can judge by personal visitations of the schools and by

a comparison of the nationality of the local clerical employés is lower than any other of the West African colonies. Local employés in the Government and among the mercantile houses, in the person of clerks, are chiefly represented by Sierra Leonians, the negro "Scotchmen," or "Germans."

Industrial education for boys does not proceed here; where, indeed, it is much wanted. Capable mechanics are old and few; the rising generation of them are comparatively ignorant and indifferent; and among them I doubt if one could render an estimate of a service required to be performed; indeed, I am told a straight line does not come within their ocular demonstration. I am in hopes that improvement in this sense may come about from the Engineers Department of the Government.

Prior to 1883 there used to be here, as in other settlements on West Africa, an annual distribution of money to the amount of 300*l.*, as far as the Gambia was concerned, to the religious bodies for educational purposes. In July 1882 an Ordinance was passed by the local legislature for the promotion and assistance of education in the Settlement; it came into force on 1st January 1883.

For 1883 the earnings of the schools that took advantage of the education Ordinance amounted to 33*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* as compared with the previous annual subsidy of 300*l.*

Our educational standard is poor; the bodies on which the Settlement has to depend educationally are poor. The Secretary of State has had already to express his regret at the small monetary earning for 1883 by the Gambia schools, and requested the extension of consideration to the subject. His Lordship naturally concluded that so large a diminution of the Government subsidy could not fail to seriously affect the prosperity and usefulness of the schools.

I would accordingly remark that in this sense the most productive time at which examinations should be here held is in September or October of each year.

School attendance would then be good, and the children would have had the advantage of instruction continuously for at least some months. The selection, if practicable, of such a time for examination would be only fair to the children, to their parents or guardians, and to the schools they attend. When the busy commercial season commences here, about November of each year, many parents and guardians go up the river for purposes of trade, and in many cases remain away up to the middle of the year following; they are accompanied as a rule by their children.

School attendance is thereby lowered, standard of result and consequent earnings are lowered, and such children on return in April, May, or June would not be in a condition fair to themselves or their teachers to do credit or bring about as much

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monetary result as is desired, and would be the case if it can be arranged that examinations be held about the time recommended.

There has been no visit to this Settlement during 1884 of the inspector of schools, consequently the local schools that were ready for inspection and examination have reaped no monetary fruit under the Educational Act.

Imports and Exports.

The following table shows the value of the imports to an exports from the Gambia for the past 10 years.

Years.	Imports thereto, Value of.	Exports therefrom, Value of.	Surplus of Exports.	Surplus of Imports.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1875 - - -	142,754 19 4	147,465 6 9	4,710 7 5	—
1876 - - -	89,356 11 3	86,216 3 9	—	3,140 7 6
1877 - - -	93,088 9 7	125,051 13 8	31,963 4 1	—
1878 - - -	164,941 18 9	204,300 12 5	39,358 13 8	—
1879 - - -	190,167 7 5	207,364 7 6	17,197 0 1	—
1880 - - -	191,580 2 3	138,983 8 9	—	52,596 13 6
1881 - - -	142,588 15 3	140,423 3 3	—	2,165 12 0
1882 - - -	173,889 18 5	254,711 2 10	80,821 4 5	—
1883 - - -	217,938 9 11	208,119 17 3	—	9,818 12 8
1884 - - -	212,121 11 6	199,482 15	—	12,638 16 0

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS, with QUANTITY, VALUE, and their DIRECTION, from the GAMBIA for the past Ten Years ended 1884.

Articles.	Direction.	Quantity.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Ground Nuts	Great Britain	1,538 tons	1,544 tons	2,029 tons	1,476 tons	1,732 tons	482 tons	1,416 tons	3,256 tons	4,178 tons	761 tons
	France	17,320 „	8,222 „	13,377 „	22,436 „	20,452 „	13,343 „	15,170 „	16,833 „	16,707 „	13,365 „
	Madeira	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	653 „	547 „
	Windward Coast	54 tons	62 tons	484 tons	—	599 tons	—	143 tons	1,439 tons	—	—
	British West Indies	107 „	96 „	49 „	85 tons	107 „	—	229 „	—	—	—
	America	—	62 „	—	—	—	—	—	273 tons	157 tons	306 tons
	Spain	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	267 „	—	—
	Holland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,399 „	—	—
	Italy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,057 „	1,292 tons	3,034 tons
	Teneriffe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	388 „
	Grand Canary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 „
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	107 tons	9 cwt.
		19,019 tons	9,986 tons	15,939 tons	23,997 tons	22,890 tons	13,825 tons	16,958 tons	25,524 tons	23,094 tons	18,404 tons and 9cwt.
Hides	Great Britain	5,877	5,127	899	—	—	—	—	—	726	183
	France	3,815	3,212	2,180	2,627	4,531	4,176	3,337	7,242	8,162	14,010
	Windward Coast	5,215	5,416	14,874	12,349	15,508	10,796	6,644	578	2,643	—
	Leeward Coast	265	1,470	—	185	—	3,417	3,616	—	680	487
	British West Indies	100	—	—	219	—	—	50	—	—	—
	America	—	3,376	—	—	10,629	409	1,626	3,128	—	7,679
	Italy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	481	—	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,956	1,342
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,298
		15,272	18,601	17,953	15,380	30,668	18,798	15,273	11,429	16,167	31,999

Principal Exports, with Quantity, Value, and their Direction, from the Gambia for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Quantity.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Palm Kernels	Great Britain	5 tons	14 tons	10 tons	26 tons	—	28 tons	42 tons	18 tons	25 tons	24 tons
	France	—	37 „	40 „	60 „	41 tons	201 „	26 „	326 „	117 „	64 „
	Italy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11 „	—	—
	Teneriffe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32 tons
	Windward Coast	—	—	54 tons	1 ton	—	—	41 tons	3 tons	—	—
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		5 tons	51 tons	104 tons	87 tons	41 tons	229 tons	109 tons	358 tons	142 tons	120 tons
Wax	Great Britain	38 tons	45 tons	32 tons	23 tons	22 tons	19 tons	12 tons	15 tons	27 tons	15 tons
	France	2 „	6 „	9 „	18 „	3 „	—	—	4 „	25 „	6 „
	British West Indies	1 cwt.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Grand Canary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 cwt.
	Windward Coast	—	10 tons	6 tons	—	16 tons	21 tons	16 tons	96 pkgs.& 3 tons.	—	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8 tons	14 tons
		40 tons & 1 cwt.	61 tons	47 tons	41 tons	41 tons	40 tons	28 tons	96 pkgs. & 22 tons.	60 tons	35 tons 3 cwt.
Corn	Great Britain	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	461 bus.	425 bus.
	France	—	—	—	7 bus.	—	—	—	18 bus.	—	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,084 bus.	5,511 bus.
	Windward Coast	209 bus.	—	122 bus.	648 bus.	156 bus.	10 bus.	19,918 bus.	5,088 bus.	7pkgs. and 2,146 bus.	—
	Leeward Coast	—	—	20 „	—	10 „	—	—	—	60 bus.	—
		209 bus.	—	142 bus.	655 bus.	166 bus.	10 bus.	19,918 bus.	5,106 bus.	7pkgs. and 6,751 bus.	5,936 bus.
Rubber	Great Britain	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41,753 lbs.	95,523 lbs.
	France	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,450 „	133,548 „
	America	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	450 „
	Windward Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,962 „
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,800 lbs.	13,802 „
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52,003 lbs.	257,285 lbs.

Principal Exports, with Quantity, Value, and their Direction, from the Gambia for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Value.									
		1875.	1876	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ground Nuts	Great Britain -	10,768	10,807	14,202	11,807	13,852	3,852	9,915	29,306	34,502	6,853
	France - -	121,240	57,555	93,639	179,485	163,620	106,743	106,192	151,496	119,202	100,793
	Madeira - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,000	4,298
	Windward Coast -	377	434	3,383	—	4,792	—	1,003	12,946	—	—
	British West Indies	749	672	343	678	857	—	1,602	—	—	—
	America - -	—	435	—	—	—	—	—	2,457	1,321	2,766
	Spain - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,399	—	—
	Holland - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21,587	—	—
	Italy - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,510	9,505	23,945
	Teneriffe - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,705
	Grand Canary -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27
	Goree - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	634	4
		133,134	69,903	111,573	191,970	183,121	110,595	118,712	229,701	170,164	141,391
Hides - -	Great Britain -	1,175	1,025	180	—	—	—	—	—	201	33
	France - -	763	642	436	525	906	835	667	1,448	1,984	3,804
	Windward Coast	1,043	1,083	2,975	2,470	3,102	2,159	1,329	116	772	—
	Leeward Coast -	53	294	—	37	—	683	723	—	166	145
	British West Indies	20	—	—	35	—	—	10	—	—	—
	America - -	—	675	—	—	2,126	82	325	626	—	2,309
	Italy - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	96	—	—
	Goree - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,182	412
	Sierra Leone -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,007
		3,054	3,719	3,591	3,067	6,134	3,759	3,054	2,286	4,305	8,710

Principal Exports, with Quantity, Value, and their Direction, from the Gambia for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Value.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Palm Kernels	Great Britain	37	138	93	256	—	262	339	337	235	235
	France	—	371	372	561	382	1,872	207	772	989	582
	Italy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	132	—	—
	Teneriffe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	318
	Windward Coast	—	—	503	5	—	—	328	29	—	—
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		37	509	968	822	382	2,134	874	1,270	1,224	1,135
Wax	Great Britain	4,568	5,375	3,907	2,813	2,618	2,115	1,040	1,842	2,390	1,544
	France	247	732	1,053	2,269	376	—	—	329	1,638	545
	British West Indies	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Grand Canary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
	Windward Coast	—	1,152	721	—	1,897	2,317	1,399	820	—	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	600	1,212
		4,821	7,259	5,681	5,082	4,891	4,432	2,439	2,991	4,628	3,311
Corn	Great Britain	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	80
	France	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	865	534
	Windward Coast	42	—	25	130	65	2	3,984	931	469	—
	Leeward Coast	—	—	4	—	3	—	—	—	12	—
		42	—	29	131	68	2	3,984	935	1,366	614
Rubber	Great Britain	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,107	8,471
	France	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	361	12,710
	America	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39
	Windward Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	993
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	580	1,000
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,048	23,213
		141,088	81,390	121,842	201,072	194,596	120,922	129,063	237,183	187,735	178,374
	Other Articles	6,377	4,826	3,210	3,229	12,768	18,061	11,360	17,528	20,385	21,109
		147,465	86,216	125,052	204,301	207,364	138,983	140,423	254,711	208,120	199,483

Principal Imports, with Quantity and Direction, into the Gambia, for the past Ten Years ended 1884.

Articles.	Direction.	Quantity.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Cotton Goods	Great Britain	1,376 pkgs. and 246,910 yds.	503 pkgs. and 166,176 yds.	785 pkgs. and 10,000 yds.	1,448,127 yds.	1,695,317 yds.	913 pkgs. and 635,821 yds.	18 pkgs. and 424,237 yds.	1,941 pkgs., 262 pcs., 170,086 yds.	1,859 pkgs.	1,912 pkgs.
	France	22 pkgs.	2 pkgs.	7 pkgs.	31,938 „	21,122 „	61 pkgs.	54 pkgs.	7 pkgs.	210 „	130 „
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 „	—
	Windward Coast	105 pkgs. and 85,365 yds.	58 pkgs. and 40,156 yds.	136 pkgs. and 4,000 yds.	27,411 yds.	277,827 yds.	96 pkgs. and 13,874 yds.	197 pkgs. and 9,910 yds.	230 pkgs. and 6,319 yds.	118 „	26 pkgs.
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	115 „	129 „
	Gold Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4 „	—
	Leeward Coast	53 pkgs.	—	10 pkgs.	282 yds.	40,096 yds.	143 pkgs. and 10,421 yds.	22 pkgs. and 5,842 yds.	110 pkgs., 128 pcs., 480 yds.	87 „	9 pkgs.
	America	—	—	—	1,500 „	307 „	—	—	—	—	15 „
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	125 „
Cola Nuts	Sierra Leone	498,112 lbs.	524,259 lbs.	431,126 lbs.	627,095 lbs.	742,580 lbs.	130 pkgs. and 578,365 lbs.	117 pkgs. and 609,047 lbs.	94 pkgs. and 429,126 lbs.	680,684 lbs.	588,056 lbs.
	Goree	408 „	—	196 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	689 „
	Windward Coast	—	—	—	7,654 lbs.	375 lbs.	9 pkgs.	—	—	—	—
Guns and Pistols	Great Britain	4,376	2,824	3,709	10,244	6,936	6,475	21 pkgs. and 4,348	305 pkgs. and 780	5,041	6,113
	France	—	—	—	1	—	5	—	250	1	4
	Windward Coast	—	5	10	126	45	—	8	152	44	11
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	6	6	48	2	10	9
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
Hardware	Great Britain	489 pkgs.	190 pkgs.	388 pkgs.	482 pkgs.	11 cwt. and 483 pkgs.	410 pkgs. and 106	267 pkgs.	163 pkgs. and 49	809 pkgs.	860 pkgs.
	France	18 „	1 pkge.	332 „	41 „	57 pkgs.	205 pkgs. & 52	24 „	146 pkgs.	323 „	614 „
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11 „	—
	America	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 pkge.	37 „	113 pkgs.
	Windward Coast	430 pkgs.	190 pkgs.	296 pkgs.	274 pkgs.	2 tons and 145 pkgs.	189 pkgs. and 90	90 pkgs.	175 pkgs.	186 „	1 „
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15 „	44 „
	Leeward Coast	5 pkgs.	5 pkgs.	—	3 pkgs.	17 tons and 3 pkgs.	12 pkgs.	7 pkgs.	1 pkge.	—	2 „
	Teneriffe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 „
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	128 „

Principal Imports, with Quantity and Direction, into the Gambia, for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Quantity.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Haberdashery	Great Britain	206 pkgs.	165 pkgs.	257 pkgs.	297 pkgs.	6 doz. and 328 pkgs.	564 pkgs. and 27	409 pkgs.	273 pkgs. and 23	346 pkgs.	429 pkgs.
	France	42 „	11 „	110 „	26 „	15 pkgs.	21 pkgs.	18 „	16 pkgs.	68 „	77 „
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25 „	—
	Windward Coast	116 pkgs.	121 pkgs.	153 pkgs.	88 pkgs.	314 pkgs.	97 pkgs. and 15	298 pkgs.	14 pkgs.	30 „	5 pkgs.
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	71 „	162 „
	Gold Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 „	—
	Leeward Coast	6 pkgs.	3 pkgs.	33 pkgs.	62 pkgs.	93 pkgs. and 150	171 pkgs.	188 pkgs.	58 pkgs.	1 „	1 pkg.
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19 pkgs.
	America	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 pkgs.	1 pkge.	—	—
Provision	Great Britain	455 pkgs.	249 pkgs.	352 pkgs.	662 pkgs.	553 pkgs.	643 pkgs. and 230 lbs.	734 pkgs.	2 tons and 581 pkgs.	709 pkgs.	561 pkgs.
	France	98 „	4 „	82 „	156 „	86 „	307 pkgs.	133 „	192 pkgs.	1,096 „	682 „
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36 „	—
	America	795 pkgs.	11 pkgs.	—	103 pkgs.	105 pkgs.	—	20 pkgs.	4 pkgs.	1,206 „	12 pkgs.
	Windward Coast	1,240 „	969 „	701 pkgs.	750 „	71 cwt. and 193 pkgs.	714 pkgs. and 50 lbs.	324 „	427 „	1,108 „	1 „
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	214 „	167 „
	Leeward Coast	40 pkgs.	55 pkgs.	46 pkgs.	61 pkgs.	8 pkgs.	231 pkgs. and 24 lbs.	278 pkgs.	416 pkgs.	29 „	1 „
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	445 „
Rice, European and America	Great Britain	1,298 tons	1,387 tons	532 tons	1,128 tons	1,604 tons	1,905 tons	887 tons	1,257 tons	2,582,858 lbs.	2,188,940 lbs.
	France	75 „	20 „	39 „	15 „	7 „	20 „	80 „	107 „	—	343,224 „
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	410,180 lbs.	—
	Windward Coast	441 tons	190 tons and 703 pkgs.	85 tons	68 tons	285 tons	233 tons	117 tons	50 tons	30,644 „	1,008 lbs.
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 pkgs. and 42,552 lbs.	217,124 „
	Leeward Coast	—	2 tons	—	—	2 tons	1 ton	3 tons	—	200 lbs.	300 „
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,056 „
	America	1 ton	95 tons	—	5 tons	—	—	—	—	—	121,664 „

Principal Imports, with Quantity and Direction, into the Gambia, for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Quantity.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Specie	Great Britain	No mention	No mention	No mention	—	—	—	—	17 pkgs.	17 pkgs.	21 pkgs.
	France				—	—	—	—	1 pkge.	10 „	4 „
	Germany				—	—	—	—	—	2 „	—
	Windward Coast				—	—	—	—	19 pkgs.	28 „	8 pkgs.
	Sierra Leone				—	—	—	—	—	7 „	5 „
	Goree				—	—	—	—	—	—	13 „
	Leeward Coast				—	—	—	—	2 pkgs.	—	—
Rum	Great Britain	15,483 galls.	19,798 galls.	14,780 galls.	25,394 galls.	24,405 galls.	22,323 galls.	13,232 galls.	4 punchs. and 26,299 galls.	28,554 galls.	14,042 galls.
	France	1,227 „	—	4,814 „	1,689 „	8,354 „	2,932 „	—	242 galls.	13,979 „	2,347 „
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,354 „	—
	America	14,502 galls.	13,824 tons	1,803 galls.	19,309 galls.	4,861 galls.	1,511 galls.	23,296 galls.	4,063 galls.	2,993 „	—
	Windward Coast	6,432 „	3,856 „	8,396 „	18,913 „	10,889 „	8,340 „	4,586 „	24 pkgs. and 567 galls.	11,070 „	—
	Leeward Coast	—	—	719 „	—	—	3,653 „	9,420 „	—	246 „	—
	Grand Canary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	170 galls.
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,553 „
Geneva	Great Britain	4,846 galls.	2,925 galls.	2,627 galls.	5,713 galls.	5,057 galls.	3,396 galls.	2,842 galls.	2 pkgs. and 2,579 galls.	5,512 galls.	3,708 „
	France	—	—	—	116 „	96 „	409 „	—	160 pkgs. and 1,006 galls.	764 „	1,123 „
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,677 „	—
	Windward Coast	481 galls.	241 galls.	567 galls.	645 galls.	1,466 galls.	13 galls.	822 galls.	1,409 galls.	338 „	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,965 galls.
	Leeward Coast	418 galls.	—	—	5 galls.	—	19 galls.	—	—	—	—
	America	70 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tobacco, Unmanufactured	Great Britain	79,579 lbs.	67,776 lbs.	50,935 lbs.	67,519 lbs.	15,628 lbs.	7,710 lbs.	—	5,345 lbs.	114,864 lbs.	25,387 lbs.
	France	—	—	—	—	—	17,164 „	—	33 „	52,465 „	18,101 „
	America	43,154 lbs.	—	—	—	56,960 lbs.	2,468 „	2,592 lbs.	10,575 „	93,968 „	47,983 „
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25,771 „	—
	Windward Coast	240,779 lbs.	256,408 lbs.	249,980 lbs.	291,865 lbs.	298,726 lbs.	281,907 lbs.	222,625 lbs.	82,042 lbs.	98,229 „	—
	Leeward Coast	6,606 „	30,654 „	3,224 „	1,765 „	8,088 „	18,899 „	16,075 „	—	26,422 „	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60,256 lbs.

Principal Imports, with Quantity and Direction, into the Gambia, for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Quantity.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Gunpowder	Great Britain	1,132 brls.	524 brls.	1,059 brls.	1,030 brls.	1,255 brls.	606 brls.	829 brls.	5,155 pkgs. and 351 brls.	1,014 brls.	746 brls.
	France	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Leeward Coast	100 brls.	—	—	—	83 lbs.	—	2 brls.	—	7 kegs	1 brl.
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100 brls.	—
	Windward Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 brls.	22 kegs.	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16 brls.
Bags, Empty	Great Britain	62 pkgs.	69 pkgs.	84 pkgs.	33,575	21,700	18,051	126 pkgs. and 470	156 and 1,304	44 and 8,467	29,543
	France	4 „	—	—	3,911	300	3,063	—	1,500	7 and 11,970	7,697
	Windward Coast	54 „	26 pkgs.	82 pkgs.	8,357	19,000	12,558	14 pkgs. and 3,900	67 pkgs. and 161	7 and 582	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,586
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	240
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Ale and Porter	Great Britain	253 pkgs. and 4,484 galls.	245 pkgs. and 1,764 galls.	7,133 galls.	7,241 galls.	8,345 galls.	10,467 galls.	7,984 galls.	645 pkgs. and 616 galls.	1,172 pkgs.	4,676 galls.
	France	—	—	—	—	—	80 „	60 „	10 pkgs.	80 „	460 „
	Leeward Coast	332 galls.	—	—	2 galls.	—	—	—	—	—	2 „
	Windward Coast	2 pkgs. and 82 galls.	402 galls.	236 galls.	48 „	616 galls.	1,444 galls.	90 galls.	25 pkgs. and 185 galls.	92 pkgs.	2 „
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	83 „	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	182 galls.
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5 „
Iron Bars	Great Britain	82 pkgs. and 11 cwt.	8 tons and 11,774	13,622	13 tons and 10,224	10,964 and 62 pkgs.	5,963 and 13 tons	4,922	35 pkgs. and 42 tons	12,804 cwt.	2,110 cwt.
	France	—	—	—	—	—	9 pkgs.	—	99 bundles	700 and 278 cwt.	—
	Windward Coast	740	6	500	5 tons	770	426 and 4 tons	67	80 pkgs. and 5	316 cwt.	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	147 cwt.
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 „

Principal Imports, with Quantity and Direction, into the Gambia, for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Quantity.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Lumber	Great Britain	1,241 pkgs.	3,212	216	562	821 ft.	235 pcs.	345 pcs.	364	75 pcs.	—
	France	485 „	72	1,247	997 and 10,000 ft.	1,327	3,604 ft. and 1,185 pcs.	1,038	766 and 3,000 ft.	1,908 „	75,440 ft.
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	410 „	—
	America	5,399 and 22,465 ft.	19,101 ft.	—	10,023	28,577 ft.	—	110,135 ft.	351 and 86,685 ft.	28,033 „	206,676 ft.
	Windward Coast	6,250 and 4,000 ft.	882 and 24,422 ft.	8,448 and 92,130 ft.	1,277 and 87,614 ft.	2,405 pcs. and 10,142 ft.	185,019 ft. and 735 pcs.	698 pcs. and 79,099 ft.	12,234 and 79,746 ft.	107,146 pcs. and 92,267 ft.	—
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,469 pcs.	49,950 ft.
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,908 „
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	242	—	93 pcs.	—	—	—
Salt	Great Britain	11 pkgs. and 25 tons	—	166 tons	120 tons	—	8 pkgs.	100 tons	—	—	1 ton
	France	1,755 tons	240 tons	1,420 tons	1,160 „	900 tons	400 tons	1,259 „	1,040 tons	798 tons and 3,750 bus.	1,192 tons
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	200 bus.	—	—	—	—	—
	Windward Coast	284 tons	1,200 bus.	140 tons	735 tons	284 tons	1,043 tons	245 tons	364 tons and 18,188 bus.	207 tons	60 tons
Sugar	Great Britain	20,255 lbs.	6 tons	13,462 lbs.	23,089 lbs.	37,941 lbs.	26,124 lbs.	14 „	4 tons and 14 brls.	42,433 lbs.	32,592 lbs.
	France	8,634 „	3 „	11,571 „	33,408 „	14,380 „	56,213 „	7 „	33,161 lbs.	52,378 „	70,919 „
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,480 „	—
	America	13,870 lbs.	216 lbs.	—	6,113 lbs.	3,717 lbs.	1,130 lbs.	4 tons	988 lbs.	—	4,956 lbs.
	Windward Coast	45,031 „	14 tons	46,682 lbs.	57,521 „	100,837 „	98,634 „	—	43 pkgs. and 60,182 lbs.	25,651 lbs.	—
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25 „	9,846 lbs.
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	3 549 lbs.	—	24 tons	—	1,956 „	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32,381 lbs.
Brandy	Great Britain	602 galls.	438 galls.	354 galls.	330 galls.	346 galls.	101 galls.	79 galls.	97 galls.	136 galls.	31 galls.
	France	60 „	—	100 „	102 „	612 „	59 „	123 „	548 „	504 „	346 „
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40 „	—
	Windward Coast	67 galls.	119 galls.	376 galls.	240 galls.	412 galls.	668 galls.	340 galls.	138 galls.	305 „	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	90 galls.
	America	20 galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Leeward Coast	8 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	6 galls.	—	—

Principal Imports, with Quantity and Direction, into the Gambia, for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Quantity.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Wine	Great Britain	1,038 galls.	500 galls.	1,921 galls.	2,237 galls.	8,053 galls.	1,915 galls.	1,413 galls.	1,723 galls.	1,905 galls.	812 galls.
	France	626 „	645 „	5,767 „	3,157 „	5,045 „	3,717 „	7,792 „	55 pkgs. and 21,091 galls.	13,244 „	16,987 „
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	236 „	—	—	630 „	—
	Windward Coast	14,314 galls.	11,717 galls.	11,534 galls.	17,969 galls.	14,962 galls.	21,745 „	12,603 galls.	2 pkgs. and 10,135 galls.	7,703 „	6 galls.
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 „	6 „
	Teneriffe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32 „
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,124 „
	America	—	24 galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Leeward Coast	—	—	152 galls.	43 galls.	—	—	11 galls.	—	—	—
Furniture	Great Britain	40 pkgs.	56 pkgs.	30 pkgs.	102 pkgs. and 3	58 pkgs.	33 pkgs. and 64	24 pkgs.	38 pkgs. and 132	127 pkgs.	47 pkgs.
	France	—	—	1 pkge.	4 pkgs.	9 „	4 pkgs. and 70	4 „	8 pkgs.	116 „	20 „
	Windward Coast	10 pkgs. and 69	12 pkgs.	36 pkgs. and 45 doz.	19 pkgs. and 48	29 pkgs. and 31	9 pkgs. and 408	29 „	6 pkgs. and 9	93 „	16 „
	Leeward Coast	5 pkgs.	—	—	5 pkgs. and 31	10 pkgs. and 1 lot	6 pcs.	1 „	31 pkgs.	18 „	20 „
	America	14 doz.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 „	45 „	141 „
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 „	—
Bricks and Tiles	Great Britain	67,000	20,000	—	—	200	16 pkgs.	3,128	24,720	40,000	40,000
	France	146,500	57,342	176,400	242,660	193,586	86,130	258,898	372,822	209,732	151,900
	Windward Coast	142,115	3,000	—	46,500	59,450	138,920	53,250	145,623	3,000	14,900
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	506	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20,000	—
Beads	Great Britain	26 pkgs.	10 pkgs.	17 pkgs.	17,656 lbs.	69 pkgs. and 400 lbs.	112 pkgs.	10 pkgs.	53 pkgs.	34 pkgs.	53 pkgs.
	France	9 „	1 „	20 „	6,412 „	21 pkgs.	—	—	6 „	71 „	116 „
	Windward Coast	16 „	2 „	10 „	318 „	4 „	86 pkgs. and 17 cwt.	145 pkgs.	31 „	43 „	32 „
	Leeward Coast	1 „	—	—	346 „	7 „	3 pkgs.	16 „	6 „	6 „	1 „
	America	—	—	—	—	2 „	—	—	—	—	—

Principal Imports, with Quantity and Direction, into the Gambia, for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Quantity.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Cordage	Great Britain	82 pkgs. and 12 lbs.	130 pkgs.	32 pkgs.	176 coils	87 coils.	61 pkgs. and 1 cwt.	46 pkgs. and 200 lbs.	6 pkgs. and 22 coils.	139 pkgs.	115 pkgs.
	France	52 pkgs.	—	22 „	136 „	1 pkge.	18 pkgs.	36 pkgs.	29 bales and 1 coil.	80 „	145 „
	Windward Coast	106 „	34 pkgs.	61 „	123 and 125 lbs.	70 coils and 88 pkgs.	83 pkgs. and 14 cwt.	29 „	17 bales and 37 coils.	83 „	4 „
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	4 pkgs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
	America	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11 coils.	—	32 pkgs.
Candles	Great Britain	453 pkgs.	445 pkgs.	552 pkgs.	630 pkgs.	562 pkgs.	739 pkgs.	712 pkgs.	469 pkgs.	541 pkgs.	49 cwt.
	France	1,005 „	550 „	500 „	575 „	637 „	390 „	242 pkgs. and 11 cwt.	519 pkgs. and 140 lbs.	706 „	140 „
	Windward Coast	149 „	151 „	117 „	97 „	528 pkgs. and 12 cwt.	374 „	542 pkgs.	—	191 „	45 „
	America	10 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18 „
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	—	1 pkge.	—	—	—	1 qr.
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15 pkgs.	—
Machinery	Great Britain	22 pkgs.	1 pkge.	10 pkgs.	16 pkgs.	2 pkgs. and 2	3 pkgs.	9 pkgs.	8 pkgs.	31 pkgs.	46 pkgs.
	France	—	—	1 „	1 pkge.	1 pkge.	1 „	—	2 „	19 „	14 „
	Windward Coast	3 pkgs.	2 pkgs.	2 „	1 „	1 „	8 „	2 pkgs.	6 pkgs. and 1	3 „	6 „
	Leeward Coast	—	—	1 „	1 „	—	—	—	1 pkge.	7 „	1 „
	America	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 pkgs.	—	34 „
Oil, Edible	Great Britain	35 pkgs.	61 pkgs.	72 pkgs.	—	6 brls.	17 pkgs. and 20 galls.	9 pkgs. and 350 gals.	16 pkgs.	5 pkgs.	26 pkgs.
	France	122 „	77 „	86 „	65 galls.	143 pkgs. and 20 brls.	159 pkgs. and 60 galls.	59 pkgs. and 1,172 gals.	114 pkgs. and 300 gals.	324 „	474 „
	Leeward Coast	4 „	1 „	—	—	—	35 pkgs. and 654 galls.	25 pkgs. and 523 gals.	14 pkgs. and 100 gals.	—	—
	Windward Coast	166 „	139 „	329 pkgs.	38 galls.	164 pkgs. and 110 galls.	116 pkgs. and 745 galls.	25 pkgs. and 2,326 gals.	62 pkgs.	1 pkge.	52 pkgs.
	America	17 „	7 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10 pkgs.	—

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PRINCIPAL IMPORTS, with VALUE and DIRECTION, into the GAMBIA, for the past Ten Years ended 1884.

Articles.	Direction.	Value.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cotton Goods	Great Britain	36,617	14,664	16,992	30,169	35,319	31,689	22,387	46,734	40,941	44,070
	France	313	55	104	527	440	1,575	939	210	4,642	3,108
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52	—
	Windward Coast	3,801	2,295	3,148	4,567	5,788	4,286	4,527	5,422	1,765	384
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	784	886
	Gold Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	—
	Leeward Coast	1,088	—	27	75	835	247	186	243	134	249
	America	—	—	—	38	6	—	—	—	—	100
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,947
Cola Nuts	Sierra Leone	17,790	18,724	15,397	22,396	26,520	27,391	29,122	19,781	32,413	30,453
	Goree	15	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	37
	Windward Coast	—	—	—	273	12	79	—	—	—	—
Guns and Pistols	Great Britain	2,596	1,657	2,271	6,413	4,646	3,710	2,232	2,657	3,141	3,866
	France	—	—	—	20	—	27	—	105	4	17
	Windward Coast	—	5	12	80	50	—	24	94	51	10
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	16
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	16	35	18	6	6	10
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52
Hardware	Great Britain	1,487	1,033	1,364	2,054	2,252	1,655	891	1,035	2,576	2,747
	France	37	2	89	112	55	442	104	472	969	835
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	—
	America	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	53	153
	Windward Coast	503	544	515	506	1,445	619	351	550	585	3
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	75
	Leeward Coast	17	15	—	33	7	38	11	4	—	9
	Teneriffe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	302

Principal Imports, with Value and Direction, into the Gambia, for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Value.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Haberdashery	Great Britain	2,879	1,301	1,401	2,542	2,028	3,085	2,761	2,097	3,641	2,815
	France	88	20	323	87	57	266	100	83	103	244
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	246	—
	Windward Coast	280	230	409	222	860	762	1,217	270	158	12
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	239	486
	Gold Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
	Leeward Coast	39	13	110	138	309	687	394	130	10	10
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	175
	America	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Provision	Great Britain	1,081	463	753	1,118	899	1,254	1,417	1,345	1,508	1,094
	France	104	4	93	116	146	394	14	244	1,094	681
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	—
	America	171	22	—	158	123	—	50	10	248	19
	Windward Coast	744	598	537	506	1,023	1,012	604	668	790	3
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	110	110
	Leeward Coast	53	74	15	14	8	149	241	127	11	1
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	496
Rice, European and American	Great Britain	13,722	6,301	6,516	13,909	16,110	21,792	9,542	16,496	9,980	9,923
	France	880	436	500	194	93	244	940	1,152	—	1,870
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,008	—
	Windward Coast	4,942	2,457	1,418	943	3,559	2,675	1,846	2,118	538	8
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	277	1,086
	Leeward Coast	—	31	—	—	18	8	30	—	1	3
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38
	America	13	935	—	58	—	—	—	—	—	668
Specie	Great Britain	—	—	—	10,190	9,504	18,793	3,839	5,453	5,522	4,120
	France	—	—	—	4,000	10,300	—	—	1,000	3,800	1,400
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	800	—
	Windward Coast	—	—	—	3,350	3,800	2,096	12,800	5,700	9,332	2,424
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,077	807
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,787
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	4,800	1,000	1,400	3,604	—	—

Principal Imports, with Value and Direction, into the Gambia, for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Value.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rum	Great Britain	1,530	1,728	1,601	2,243	2,346	2,338	1,416	2,364	2,862	1,080
	France	119	—	364	155	368	983	—	9	1,332	209
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	354	—
	America	1,534	787	158	2,208	389	206	1,105	336	290	—
	Windward Coast	632	424	816	1,841	764	5,263	1,433	188	1,200	—
	Leeward Coast	—	—	98	—	—	1,341	847	—	30	—
	Grand Canary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,108
Geneva	Great Britain	1,019	622	573	1,053	841	478	411	824	663	571
	France	—	—	—	23	17	56	—	154	129	237
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	314	—
	Windward Coast	107	41	124	111	203	3	204	108	75	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	368
	Leeward Coast	87	—	—	2	—	10	—	—	—	—
	America	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tobacco, Unmanufactured.	Great Britain	3,617	3,010	1,440	1,997	301	216	—	1,028	3,115	628
	France	—	—	—	—	—	341	—	6	1,426	515
	America	1,431	—	—	—	1,360	78	81	306	3,301	3,192
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	705	—
	Windward Coast	9,146	9,377	9,009	9,502	7,955	7,940	6,248	2,391	2,621	—
	Leeward Coast	275	1,316	127	59	280	573	442	—	914	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,904
Gunpowder.	Great Britain	2,067	851	1,780	3,257	2,203	997	1,578	1,578	2,062	1,436
	France	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Leeward Coast	300	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	1	2
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	157	—
	Windward Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	14	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50

Principal Imports, with Value and Direction, into the Gambia, for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Value.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bags, Empty.	Great Britain	724	475	387	1,679	727	602	846	1,490	324	1,176
	France	40	—	—	196	10	102	—	56	683	240
	Windward Coast	479	76	528	418	638	419	359	526	56	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	51
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ale and Porter.	Great Britain	1,184	721	1,204	1,198	1,422	1,660	1,390	947	1,229	790
	France	—	—	—	—	—	13	20	10	80	69
	Leeward Coast	112	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Windward Coast	18	70	54	12	131	94	17	48	88	1
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	75	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Iron Bars	Great Britain	1,223	983	790	755	434	640	267	713	736	707
	France	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	52	183	—
	Windward Coast	112	1	68	58	87	90	8	42	166	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lumber	Great Britain	195	590	50	100	21	89	109	155	72	—
	France	125	31	377	481	340	357	200	266	536	16
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	104	—
	America	546	79	—	44	151	—	342	468	198	1,078
	Windward Coast	432	321	783	739	2,796	1,253	484	1,034	1,282	—
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	223
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	73
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	18	—	37	—	—	—
Salt	Great Britain	39	—	101	108	—	20	74	—	—	1
	France	926	200	745	631	534	172	869	713	643	750
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—
	Windward Coast	161	45	109	397	116	542	262	316	115	67

Principal Imports, with Value and Direction, into the Gambia, for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Value.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar	Great Britain	289	215	239	344	399	372	444	236	556	335
	France	149	104	186	499	244	998	247	587	679	921
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	—
	America	206	3	—	95	42	19	134	15	—	80
	Windward Coast	659	447	758	957	1,551	1,491	—	912	356	—
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	186
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	54	—	809	—	19	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	406
Brandy	Great Britain	430	249	346	295	271	128	35	61	135	33
	France	39	—	73	66	408	39	109	364	391	266
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—
	Windward Coast	95	57	319	178	273	680	286	114	234	—
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	73
	America	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Leeward Coast	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Wine	Great Britain	646	213	471	529	1,228	546	545	635	874	217
	France	163	137	695	449	832	762	839	2,501	1,891	2,059
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	35	—	—	107	—
	Windward Coast	1,577	1,118	1,222	1,552	1,582	2,447	1,760	1,273	1,402	3
	Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7
	Teneriffe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
	Goree	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	954
	America	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Leeward Coast	—	—	13	5	—	—	13	—	—	—
Furniture	Great Britain	229	321	39	194	232	330	204	291	250	216
	France	—	—	3	5	21	119	24	27	275	103
	Windward Coast	26	15	161	21	57	135	39	31	130	29
	Leeward Coast	20	—	—	3	19	5	10	2	21	44
	America	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	69	295
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—

Principal Imports, with Value and Direction, into the Gambia, for the past Ten Years ended 1884—*continued.*

Articles.	Direction.	Value.									
		1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883	1884.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bricks and Tiles.	Great Britain	151	50	—	—	6	1	94	41	66	66
	France	276	96	391	441	364	218	570	697	472	301
	Windward Coast	262	11	—	127	204	312	98	318	12	25
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	—
Beads	Great Britain	343	133	125	515	478	685	336	482	1,080	1,843
	France	100	4	96	170	92	—	—	77	1,249	762
	Windward Coast	48	6	12	112	54	274	475	145	696	613
	Leeward Coast	3	—	—	10	58	4	120	29	20	40
	America	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cordage	Great Britain	240	568	93	358	200	179	179	176	434	280
	France	121	—	68	99	1	61	136	205	410	899
	Windward Coast	370	91	217	487	681	320	140	132	363	32
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	America	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	112
Candles	Great Britain	301	282	320	414	366	537	427	323	415	158
	France	313	175	291	281	292	252	98	280	413	401
	Windward Coast	86	53	83	60	292	196	275	—	124	99
	America	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60
	Leeward Coast	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	95	—
Machinery	Great Britain	64	8	90	82	17	10	48	44	143	192
	France	—	—	1	2	8	1	—	2	313	87
	Windward Coast	14	4	24	2	3	30	20	55	16	59
	Leeward Coast	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	5	23	15
	America	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	110
Oil, Edible.	Great Britain	109	113	161	—	100	145	177	33	54	163
	France	86	70	44	31	453	739	418	475	1,465	652
	Leeward Coast	14	3	—	—	—	89	103	50	—	—
	Windward Coast	115	230	190	19	402	655	522	63	9	219
	America	68	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	—
		125,120	78,416	80,023	142,483	166,788	165,705	126,776	144,684	174,372	151,696
Other Articles		17,635	10,941	13,065	22,459	23,379	25,875	15,813	29,206	43,566	60,426
	Total	142,755	89,357	93,088	164,942	190,167	191,580	142,589	173,890	217,938	212,122

GAMBIA.

Shipping.

The total number of sailing vessels entered for 1884 was 150, with a tonnage of 18,420, and crews who amounted to 1,024. In the previous year the numbers under like headings were 273, 28,838, and 1,760. Of the vessels entered, 29 were British and 121 foreign; of the gross tonnage (18,420) the foreign was represented by 17,634.

The nationality of these vessels is hereunder given:—

Nationality of Vessels.	Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
British - - -	29	786	153
French - - - -	91	6,102	581
Portuguese - - -	3	148	17
Italian - - - -	19	9,212	207
Norwegian - -	1	431	10
American - - -	7	1,741	56
Total - -	150	18,420	1,024

The total number of sailing vessels cleared was 149, with a tonnage of 17,918, and crews who numbered 991. The nationality of these vessels is in each case hereunder given:—

Nationality of Vessels.	Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
British - - -	29	793	152
French - - - -	88	5,539	542
Portuguese - - -	4	163	22
Italian - - - -	19	9,000	198
Norwegian - - -	1	431	10
American - - -	8	1,992	67
Total - -	149	17,918	991

The total number of steam vessels entered was 70, with gross tonnage of 56,751, and 2,070 hands in crews. Of this number 25 were foreign steam vessels, with tonnage of 12,497, and 479 hands.

There cleared during the year 69 steamers, with gross tonnage represented by 57,702, and crews who numbered 2,095.

The following table will afford particulars of nationality of steamers entered and cleared :—

Nationality of Steam Vessels.	Total Entered.			Total Cleared.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
British - - - -	45	44,254	1,591	45	45,313	1,624
French - - - -	23	11 857	453	22	11,749	445
Norwegian - - -	2	640	26	2	640	26
Total - - -	70	56,751	2,070	69	57,702	2,095

Of the above statistics the following will show the European and American and "local West African" trade, as the foregoing must not be viewed as representing altogether ocean carriage, since a considerable and regular coasting trade is carried on by local cutters registered in the port of Bathurst and in the Colony of Senegal; but they may rather be taken as representing the "European and American" and "West African" carrying trade; the latter has been generally classified under "Africa Windward" and "Leeward Coast" which I have had analysed into trade flags and ports, as tabulated hereunder :—

Analysis of Trade and Flags of Vessels entered and cleared during 1884.

Nationality of Sailing Vessels.	Total Entered.					
	European and American.			Local West African.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
British - - - -	1	141	7	28	645	146
French - - - -	5	2,654	65	86	3,448	516
Portuguese - - -	—	—	—	3	148	17
Italian - - - -	19	9,212	207	—	—	—
Norwegian - - -	1	431	10	—	—	—
American - - - -	7	1,741	56	—	—	—
*Total - - -	33	14,179	345	117	4,241	679

(*Continued.*)

Nationality of Sailing Vessels.	Total Cleared.					
	European and American.			Local West African.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
British - - - -	1	141	7	28	652	145
French - - - -	4	2,164	52	84	3,375	490
Portuguese - - -	—	—	—	4	163	22
Italian - - - -	19	9,000	198	—	—	—
Norwegian - - -	1	431	10	—	—	—
American - - - -	8	1,992	67	—	—	—
Total - - -	33	13,728	334	116	4,190	657

* Includes entries of Coasting Trading Vessels other than West African.

Windward Entries - - - - - - - -	11	4,624	114
Leeward Entries - - - - - - - -	1	328	5
	12	4,952	119

GAMBIA.

Windward West African Local Carrying Trade, 1884. *Entries of Sailing Vessels.*

Countries or Ports whence arrived.	Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
Cape Verde	1	66	6
Senegal	3	359	14
Goree	48	3,990	329
Dakar	5	2,397	55
Rufisque	4	95	20
Joal	9	179	44
Foundiounne	45	1,323	253
Banjalla	1	16	5
Misera	1	16	5
Total	117	8,441	731

As the foregoing figures are not exclusively confined to local carrying trade, the following further analysis is desirable:—

Windward Coast. Entries of Vessels.

Nationality of Sailing Vessels.	Total.					
	*European and American.			Local West African.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
British	—	—	—	21	468	110
French	—	—	—	84	3,283	501
Italian	7	3,731	78	—	—	—
American	3	462	26	—	—	—
Norwegian	1	431	10	—	—	—
Portuguese	—	—	—	1	66	6
Total	*11	4,624	114	106	3,817	617

Windward Coast. Clearances of Vessels.

Nationality of Sailing Vessels.	Total Cleared.					
	*European and American.			Local West African.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
British	1	140	7	21	476	109
French	—	—	—	80	3,274	470
Portuguese	—	—	—	1	66	7
American	1	94	9	—	—	—
Total	*2	234	16	102	3,816	586

* Coasting Trade.

Leeward West African Local Carrying Trade, 1884. *Entries of Vessels.*

Countries or Ports whence arrived.	Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
Cassamanee - - - -	6	234	33
Gounjour - - - -	4	124	22
Bulama - - - -	1	66	7
Sierra Leone - - - -	1	328	5
Total - -	12	752	67

Hereunder is an analysis as to flags and trade of foregoing:—

Leeward Coast. Entries of Vessels.

Nationality of Sailing Vessels.	Total Entered.					
	European and American.			Local West African.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
British - - - -	—	—	—	7	177	36
French - - - -	—	—	—	2	165	15
American - - - -	1	328	5	—	—	—
Portuguese - - -	—	—	—	2	82	11
Total - - -	1	328	5	11	424	62

Leeward Coast. Clearances of Vessels.

Nationality of Sailing Vessels.	Total Cleared.					
	European and American.			Local West African.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
British - - - -	—	—	—	7	177	36
French - - - -	—	—	—	4	101	20
Portuguese - - -	—	—	—	3	97	15
American - - - -	2	411	18	—	—	—
Total - - -	2	411	18	14	375	71

GAMBIA.

The following table gives for 1884 an analysis of entries and clearances of steam vessels under flags and direction:—

Nationality of Steam Vessels.	Total Entered.					
	European and American.			Local West African.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
British* - - - -	45	44,254	1,591	—	—	—
French - - - -	13	11,048	312	10	809	141
Norwegian - - -	2	640	26	—	—	—
Total - - -	60	55,942	1,929	10	809	141

(*Continued.*)

Nationality of Steam Vessels.	Total Cleared.					
	European and American.			Local West African.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
British* - - - -	45	45,313	1,624	—	—	—
French - - - -	12	10,983	310	10	766	135
Norwegian - - -	2	640	26	—	—	—
Total - - -	59	56,936	1,960	10	766	135

* Includes 35 visits of outward and homeward English Mail Steamers.

Useful detail of foregoing, under flags, arrivals, destinations, and distribution of trade will be found as follows:—

British Interest.

ENTRIES, BRITISH STEAMERS.

Name of Vessels.	Direction.	Total Entered.			Remarks.
		Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	
Jane Clark - -	London - -	1	532	16	Trading Ships.
Bentinck - -	St. Vincent -	1	555	20	
Alfonso - -	St. Vincent -	1	855	22	
Maas - -	Liverpool - -	1	137	10	Hulk, Brit. &A.S.N.Co.
Celt - - -	Liverpool - -	1	363	16	Trading ships.
Alfonso - -	Gibraltar - -	1	855	22	
Christine - -	Teneriffe - -	1	94	14	Pleasure Yacht.
Danehill - -	Goree - -	1	746	20	Trading Ship.
International -	London - -	1	1,004	76	Telegraph Ship.
Beeswing - -	Sierra Leone -	1	716	21	Trading Ship.
	Other Vessels -	10	5,857	237	
	Mail Steamers -	35	38,397	1,354	
		45	44,254	1,591	

(*Continued.*)

CLEARANCES, BRITISH STEAMERS.

Name of Vessels.	Where for.	Total Cleared.			Remarks.
		Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	
Jane Clark - -	Dakar - -	1	532	16	Trading Ships.
Bentinck - -	Genoa - -	1	555	19	
Alfonso - -	Marseilles - -	1	855	22	
Celt - - -	Marseilles -	1	363	16	
Alfonso - -	Marseilles -	1	855	21	
Beeswing - -	Marseilles -	1	716	21	
Christine - -	St. Vincent -	1	94	14	Pleasure Yacht.
Laternational -	Freetown - -	1	1,004	76	Telegraph Ship.
Danehill - -	Marseilles - -	1	746	20	Trading Ship.
	Other Vessels -	9	5,720	225	
	Mail Steamers -	36	39,593	1,399	
		45	45,313	1,624	

Foreign Interest.

ENTRIES. FOREIGN STEAMERS.

Direction.	European and American.			Direction.	Local West African.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.		Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
French.				*French.*			
Sierra Leone -	1	1,156	30	Senegal - -	1	108	17
Dakar - -	1	1,066	30	Carabane - -	1	123	20
Goree - -	1	387	20	Foundiougne -	1	123	18
Foundiougne -	1	871	24	Goree - -	7	455	86
France - -	9	7,568	208				
	13	11,048	312		*10	809	141
Norwegian.							
Goree - -	1	339	13				
Dakar - -	1	301	13				
	2	640	26				

* Chiefly represented by local French steamers "St. Joseph" and intermediate Colonial French Mail "Rokelle."

(*Continued.*)

CLEARANCES. FOREIGN STEAMERS.

	European and American.			Local West African.			Where for.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	
French.							
Goree - -	1	387	20	—	—	—	Goree.
Dakar - -	1	1,066	31	—	—	—	Madeira.
Sierra Leone -	1	1,156	30	—	—	—	
France - -	8	7,503	206	—	—	—	France.
Foundiougne -	1	871	23	—	—	—	
	12	10,983	310	—	—	—	
Goree - -	—	—	—	10	766	135	Cassamanee.
Carabane - -	—	—	—				Goree.
Foundiougne -	—	—	—				Foundiougne.
Norwegian.							
Goree - -	1	339	13	—	—	—	Madeira.
Dakar - -	1	301	13	—	—	—	
	2	640	26	—	—	—	

Hereunder is a table of entries and clearances of sailing and steam vessels with cargoes and in ballast for 10 years ended and inclusive of 1884:—

Sailing Vessels.

Years.	Entries.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1875	172	24,367	1,413	34	8,970	332	206	33,337	1,745
1876	108	8,368	728	34	7,633	296	142	16,001	1,024
1877	108	17,966	870	33	7,761	290	141	25,727	1,160
1878	107	19,931	931	32	12,246	343	139	32,177	1,274
1879	132	14,813	1,013	45	8,068	243	177	22,881	1,256
1880	138	15,252	981	43	3,708	255	181	18,960	1,236
1881	116	15,200	869	43	4,866	296	159	20,066	1,165
1882	102	19,650	853	58	9,531	436	160	29,181	1,289
1883	158	21,845	1,141	115	6,993	619	273	28,838	1,760
1884	88	13,282	645	62	5,138	379	150	18,420	1,024
Total -	1,229	170,674	9,444	499	74,914	3,489	1,728	245,588	12,933

(*Continued.*)

Years.	Clearances.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1875	111	28,437	1,073	101	2,640	635	212	31,077	1,708
1876	87	22,119	969	70	1,184	370	157	23,303	1,339
1877	87	23,276	898	62	1,177	352	149	24,453	1,250
1878	103	23,971	803	45	1,169	273	148	25,140	1,076
1879	135	22,064	1,051	62	1,269	359	197	23,333	1,410
1880	143	18,320	1,011	46	1,330	248	189	19,650	1,259
1881	133	20,113	998	47	794	247	180	20,907	1,245
1882	121	27,065	1,043	52	1,638	300	173	28,703	1,343
1883	197	28,258	1,393	69	1,141	313	266	29,399	1,706
1884	133	17,319	904	16	599	87	149	17,918	991
Total -	1,250	230,942	10,143	570	12,941	3,184	1,820	243,883	13,327

Steam Vessels.

Years.	Entries.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1875	27	23,925	1,228	—	—	—	27	23,925	1,228
1876	34	38,538	1,561	1	24	12	35	38,562	1,573
1877	34	35,697	1,559	1	24	8	35	35,721	1,567
1878	39	44,282	1,685	—	—	—	39	44,282	1,685
1879	54	57,822	2,261	5	4,816	114	59	62,638	2,375
1880	58	60,300	2,167	4	643	46	62	60,943	2,213
1881	48	45,128	1,656	7	1,944	95	55	47,072	1,751
1882	48	48,166	1,701	5	2,931	98	53	51,097	1,799
1883	51	48,917	1,765	11	3,476	159	62	52,393	1,924
1884	60	51,163	1,822	10	5,588	248	70	56,751	2,070
Total -	453	453,938	17,405	44	19,446	780	497	473,384	18,185

(*Continued.*)

Years.	Clearances.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1875	27	23,975	1,229	1	24	8	28	23,999	1,237
1876	28	31,698	1,283	1	24	12	29	31,722	1,295
1877	34	35,689	1,538	1	24	11	35	35,713	1,549
1878	28	43,156	1,658	1	1,127	27	29	44,283	1,685
1879	58	62,658	2,344	—	—	—	58	62,658	2,344
1880	60	60,898	2,197	2	45	10	62	60,943	2,207
1881	49	46,726	1,685	2	50	18	51	46,776	1,703
1882	53	51,128	1,805	2	50	8	55	51,178	1,813
1883	53	50,666	1,789	5	53	36	58	50,719	1,825
1884	67	56,604	2,005	2	1,098	90	69	57,702	2,095
Total -	457	463,198	17,533	17	2,495	220	474	465,693	17,753

Mail Service and other Ocean and Intermediate means of Sea Communication.

The mail service of this Settlement, as regards to windward, Goree, Dakar, the Canary Islands, Madeira, and Liverpool, and to leeward, Sierra Leone, Sherbro, Liberia, Gold Coast Colony, &c., is at present monthly conducted under an agreement, dated 1873, with the Postmaster General by the British and African Steam Navigation Company. Their offices are in London, 101, Leadenhall Street, E.C., and in Liverpool, 48, Castle Street.

I must add that it suits the convenience and the interest of the Company to run their boats more frequently during trade season

For the monthly service this Company receives not only the sea postage on the correspondence carried in the mails to and from the Gambia, but also a fixed amount of 1,200*l.* a year from this Government, and their packets are exempted from port and harbour dues at Bathurst. This monetary return may be estimated at between 5,000*l.* and 6,000*l.* per annum. Frequent direct steam

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opportunities of transport between Bathurst, France, and England offer during the busy trade season, viz., between November and May.

Many are the opportunities of intermediate colonial communication as regards West Africa, as can be gathered from particulars under shipping.

A regular inter-colonial postal and carrying service, per S. S. "Roquelle" of the "Compagnie du Senegal et de la cote occidentale d'Afrique," began on the 3rd December 1884. It has been undertaken for three years under a contract entered into between the Senegal Government and the above Company. The following time table will afford interesting and useful information on this service,

Time Table of the Monthly Postal Service from Dakar to Sierra Leone, per S. S. Roquelle, of the Compagnie du Senegal et de la cote occidentale d'Afrique.

Speed going, 7 knots. Returning, 6 knots.

Stoppages during the stays :—

At Rufisque	-	-	2	hours of daylight.
„ Foundiougne	-	-	10	„ „ „
„ Rio-Nunez	-	-	10	„ „ „
„ Other points	-	-	8	„ „ „

DEPARTURE.

Ports.	Date each month.	Hour of start.	Distance.	Hours on route.	Hours supp.
Dakar - -	1	6 a.m.	10	2	—
Rufisque - -	1	10 a.m.	90	13	12
Foundiougne - -	3	9 a.m.	60	9	—
Bathurst - -	4	2 p.m.	95	14	6
Carabane -	5	6 p.m.	140	20	—
Boulam - -	7	10 a.m.	180	26	2
Bel-Air - -	9	noon	110	16	4
Boffa - - -	10	4 p m.	100	15	1
Benty - -	11	4 p.m.	55	8	6
Sierra Leone - -	14	9 a.m.	55	9	—
Benty - -	15	2 p.m.	100	17	1
Boffa - - -	16	4 p.m.	110	18	2
Bel-Air - -	18	10 a.m.	180	30	14
Boulam - -	20	2 p.m.	140	24	—
Carabane - -	22	10 a.m.	95	16	6
Bathurst - -	23	4 p.m.	60	10	8
Foundiougne - -	25	8 a.m.	90	15	7
Rufisque - -	26	8 a.m.	10	2	—

(*Continued.*)

ARRIVAL.

Ports.	Date each month.	Hours.	Hours of stay.	Hours.
Rufisque - -	1	8 a.m.	2	—
Foundiougne - -	2	11 a.m.	10	12
Bathurst - -	3	6 p.m.	8	12
Carabane - -	5	10 a.m.	8	—
Boulam - -	6	2 p.m.	8	12
Bel-Air - -	8	2 p.m.	10	12
Boffa - - -	10	8 a.m.	8	—
Benty - -	11	8 a.m.	8	—
Sierra Leone - -	12	6 a.m.	51	—
Benty - -	14	6 p.m.	8	12
Boffa - -	16	8 a.m.	8	—
Bel-Air - -	17	noon.	10	12
Boulam - -	20	6 a.m.	8	—
Carabane - -	21	2 p.m.	8	12
Bathurst - -	23	8 a.m.	8	—
Foundiougne - -	24	10 a.m.	10	12
Rufisque - -	26	6 a.m.	2	—
Dakar - - -	26	10 a.m.	—	—

The rate for passengers is as follows:—

—	1st CLASS. Food included.	2nd CLASS. Food included.	3rd CLASS. Food included.
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr. c.
From Dakar to Rufisque (*) -	3	2	1 50
„ „ Foundiougne -	30	20	15 0
„ „ Gambia -	50	35	20 0
„ „ Carabane -	75	45	30 0
„ „ Boulam -	10	75	50 0
„ „ the Rio Nunez -	140	90	70 0
„ „ the Rio Pongo -	160	100	80 0
„ „ Benty - -	180	120	100 0
„ „ Sierra Leone -	200	150	120 0

* The price of the passage from Dakar to Rufisque does not include food.

Price of freight per ton of 1,000 kilos is fixed as follows:—

	Francs.
From Dakar to Rufisque - - -	5
„ Foundiougne- - -	10
„ Gambia - - -	15
„ Carabane - - -	20
„ Boulam - - -	25
„ Rio Nunez - - -	30
„ Rio Pongo - - -	35
„ Benty - - -	40
„ Sierra Leone - - -	45

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The price of freight from one station to the other will be the difference between the prices of the two stations.

The undertaking reserves to itself the right to accept merchandise either by weight or measurement, according to the ordinary rules of the mercantile marine, only the measurement employed will always be from 1,445.

In addition to the British and African line, advantage can now be without delay or discomfort taken of the boats of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, for Lisbon, and Bordeaux.

Means of Telegraphic Communication with Europe.

In November 1884, cable communication with Europe, under the title of the Spanish National Submarine Telegraph Company, Limited, was effected, *vid* the Canary Islands, with St. Louis, the capital of the French Colony of Senegal.

The following is the cable tariff from St. Louis to countries mentioned:—

Countries.	Rate per word of 15 letters.
	Fr. c.
France	2 50
Algeria and Tunis	2 60
Italy	2 90
Great Britain	3 00
Austria-Hungary	2 90
Germany	2 80
Norway and Sweden	3 00
Denmark	2 90
Greece	3 10
Belgium	2 80
Spain	2 70
Malta	3 10
Holland	2 90
European Russia	3 20
Asiatic Russia	3 40
Switzerland	2 80
European Turkey	3 10
Gibraltar	2 65
Portugal	2 60

The European shore end of cable is at Cadiz.

There is an invariable surcharge on all messages, other than those for France, Tunis, and Algeria, of F. 12·50 each, besides the costs of each word, as per ordinary tariff.

A land wire has connected, since 1862, St. Louis with Dakar, and has since been extended to Rufisque and Joal, also in the Colony of Senegal. The cost of a message consisting of 20 words or under is two francs. For each additional five words there is a charge of 50 centimes.

From Joal to Fort Bullen, on the right bank of the Gambia, opposite to Bathurst, and within British jurisdiction, the distance by beach is about 50 miles.

The Gambia between Bathurst and Fort Bullen is a little under three miles in breadth.

I have been given to understand that it is under consideration to connect by cable Gambia with England, *viâ* St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, which are distant under 300 miles from the Gambia.

Rates of passage money and freight from Bathurst, per steamers of the British and African Steam Navigation Company, are ordinarily as follows:—

To	Chief Cabin.	Second Cabin.	Deck.	Freight.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Liverpool	22 0 0	19 0 0	—	—
Madeira	13 10 0	10 0 0	2 10 0	1 10 0
Teneriffe	11 0 0	7 10 0	2 0 0	1 5 0
Grand Canary	11 0 0	7 10 0	2 0 0	
Goree	2 0 0	1 10 0	0 8 0	0 10 0
Sierra Leone	4 0 0	2 10 0	1 0 0	0 15 0
Monrovia	8 0 0	6 0 0	2 15 0	1 5 0
Cape Palmas or Kroo Coast	10 0 0	8 0 0	2 0 0	
Half Jack	11 0 0	8 10 0	2 15 0	
C. C. Castle or Elmina	12 0 0	9 0 0	2 15 0	1 10 0
Accra	13 0 0	9 10 0	3 0 0	
Quittah	14 0 0	10 0 0	3 5 0	
Lagos	15 0 0	10 10 0	3 15 0	
Bonny	17 0 0	12 0 0	4 5 0	2 0 0
Fernando Po	18 0 0	13 0 0	4 10 0	
Old Calabar or Cameroon	20 0 0	14 10 0	5 0 0	
Gaboon	22 0 0	16 10 0	6 0 0	2 10 0
Black Point	24 0 0	18 10 0	6 15 0	
Landana	25 0 0	19 10 0	7 0 0	
Congo	26 0 0	20 10 0	7 5 0	
Ambrizette	27 0 0	21 10 0	7 10 0	3 0 0
Kinsembo	28 0 0	22 10 0	7 15 0	
Ambriz	29 0 0	23 10 0	8 0 0	
Loanda	30 0 0	24 10 0	8 5 0	

The minimum rate of passage money between any two ports to be 1*l.* first class, 15*s.* second class, and 5*s.* deck. When passengers remain on board during the night, the minimum rate to be 2*l.* first class, and 1*l.* 10*s.* second class; the deck rates do not include victualling, but such passengers may be victualled at 1*s.* 6*d.* per day each. Kroomen at 6*d.* per day each. The rate of freight is per ton weight (20 cwt.) or measurement (40 ft.) at ship's option.

When the ship calls at any intermediate ports not named above, a proportionate rate of passage money will be charged.

The outward freight from Liverpool to Bathurst is, on fine goods such as cottons, &c., 40*s.* per ton, and 10 per cent. primage; on rough goods, rice, hardware, &c., 30*s.* per ton and 10 per cent.

As regards imports from Sierra Leone, the freight on a basket of colas, three measures equal to 336 lbs. weight, is 18*s.* 8*d.*, or nearly two-thirds of a penny a pound weight. The colah represents the only article on which there is a fixed freight, for other packages are left to the ship's or agent's judgment, and on

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occasions where large quantities are transported, the charge is 15*s.* per ton, somewhat regardless of distance.

As regards west and south-west coast of Africa, rates of freight are hereunder, per British and African Steam Navigation Co. :—

Homewards to Liverpool.

Goods.	From Ports between Goree and Old Calabar inclusive.	From Ports between Gaboon and Loanda inclusive.
Ebony - - - per ton gross weight	20*s.*	20*s.*
Barwood - - - „ „	30*s.*	30*s.*
Fruit - - - „ „		
Palm kernels - - „ „	35*s.*	40*s.*
Ground nuts (shelled) - „ „	40*s.*	45*s.*
Arrowroot - - „ „	45*s.*	55*s.*
Beeswax - - „ „		
Cam wood - - „ „		
Copra nuts - - „ „		
Gum - - - „ „		
Palm oil - - - „ „		
Seeds - - - „ „		
Cocao - - - „ „	55*s.*	65*s.*
Coffee - - - „ „		
Ginger - - - „ „		
India Rubber - - „ „		
Cotton raw - - press packets, per. lbs. net	1*s.* 2*d.*	3*s.* 4*d.*
Ivory - - - „ „	1*d.*	1¼*d.*
Specie and gold dust (through) (to London) on value per cent.	25*s.*	30*s.*
From Grand Canary, Teneriffe, and Madeira:—		
Cochineal - - - - - per. lb.	3*s.* 8*d.*	⅜ of 1*d.*
„ through to London - - - „	5*s.* 8*d.*	⅜ of 1*d.*
Fruit - - per ton, gross measurement	20*s.*	
Specie - - - - per cent.	12*s.* 6*d.*	
Wines - - - - per cased pipe	30*s.*	
Wines in bottles - - - per doz. quarts	2*s.*	
„ „ - - - „ „ pints	1*s.* 3*d.*	

Goods not enumerated, 30*s.*, weight or measurement at ship's option.

All with 10 per cent. primage, except specie and cochineal.

Average Tariff for Passengers and Freight from Bathurst, and vice versâ.

Steamers other than by the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes :—

From	Cost of Passage.	Freight.	Remarks.
Bordeaux and Marseilles.	400 francs, 1st class.	35 francs per ton weight for merchandise coming from Bordeaux, and 40 francs per ton going to Europe on ground nuts.	This price is a mean. Freight is per ton weight usually.

Sailing Vessels.

From	Cost of Passage.	Freight.	Remarks.
Marseilles - -	3 francs 50 cents. each day, without extra.	15 francs for merchandise coming from Marseilles, and 34 francs 50 cents. on nuts for Europe.	Same as above.

Merchandise from Marseilles and Bordeaux is usually imported by sailing vessel. Vessels or steamers are chartered at rates mentioned on cargo to be conveyed hence. Sooner than take ballast cargo space is placed as a rule at disposition of charterer, who, if locally interested, is enabled to send out his own merchandise free, and merchandise for others at 15 francs per ton weight.

Should shipping competition be limited, and consequently less easy terms of charter securable, freight may have additionally to be paid by charterer on outward merchandise at eight or nine francs per ton weight.

The freight of steamers chartered in France for transport of produce from Bathurst to Marseilles or Bordeaux may be estimated at 40 francs per ton weight.

For sailing vessels an average may be viewed as 34 francs per ton of 1,000 kilogrammes of ground nuts; for palm kernels half the rate for ground nuts is paid.

Average freights from New York or Boston to Bathurst:—

Per sailing vessels.

For each barrel of flour 75 cubic feet one dollar ($1) or 20 cent. per cubic foot.

For lumbers:—$14 per thousand feet for white pine, and $18 for pitch pine.

Per Steamers.

From New York to Bordeaux average freight 24*s.* per ton.

Agriculture, Cultivated and Uncultivated Lands, &c.

The area of the Settlement is recorded as 69 square miles. These figures will be verified or amended by a proper survey to be conducted by the Colonial Engineer. The component parts of the Settlement are represented by the island of St. Mary, British Combo, the Ceded Mile (Barra district), and McCarthy's Island.

The land question here is in an unsatisfactory condition, and must sooner or later be taken up. Land unalienated is Crown land. The terms of grants for agriculture have been varied,

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seemingly at the discretion of the officer administering the Government. I have not yet succeeded in securing particulars of extent of Crown land alienated and remaining for disposition of the Crown. A proper survey is accordingly essential.

With the exception of Ordinance of 15th June 1864, relative to the annual leasing of the land in British Combo, and of Ordinance of 16 December 1850, as to the collection of quit rents in Bathurst (which has not so far as I can ascertain been acted on since 1865), no local legislation exists dealing with the granting of lands in the Settlement.

Towards the development of the resources of the country, every encouragement and stimulant should be locally given, by way of example, to varied agricultural pursuits, with the object of bringing about a more fixed vested interest as a counterpoise to the characteristic migrations of the people, who go to form and reform our population both in and out of the jurisdiction ; grants should accordingly be of easy and cheap issue.

As to extent or nature of agriculture, data are not sufficient to warrant any reliable remarks of statistical value.

The staple article of cultivation has been now for some years the ground nut "Arachis hypogoea," which represents, sad to say, the commercial idol of the Gambia.

Foreign demand and mills attract this export to foreign markets.

Personal or ground nut health is the main topic of local conversation.

Cereals of various sorts are also grown for home consumption, but not sufficiently, as foreign rice has been imported.

The wild indigo is also sparingly submitted to cultivation for local dyeing purposes.

Tobacco is to be found in a wild state, and is somewhat cultivated for native use.

Cotton stands among the products, and is used chiefly for manufacture of thread for native pagns (cloths) in and out of the jurisdiction.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries, &c.

Manufactures are varied and most primitive ; the cloths of the country, as specimens of weaving and dyeing, are the most advanced proofs of locally developed skill.

An unpretentious but extensive timber industry proceeds in the building of cutters, by means of which, with the aid of canoes, the inland water carrying trade is mainly effected. The tonnage of the Gambia cutter local industry is represented by 2,500. The other woodwork is interesting and curious, composed of agricultural implements, furniture, musical instruments, wharves, &c.

Ground nut oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil, castor oil, toolacoona oil, worage oil, porpoise oil, shark liver oil, manatee oil, are locally manufactured in primitive fashion for home use.

The Gambia had much notoriety in the past for its woods, which were to be found in European markets; they are still to be had; and convenient water transport by means of the river, available so that a revival of this trade may, perhaps, be hoped for.

The celebrated runs, "Borassus Aethiopicum" of the Gambia may find a market in Holland in connexion with house foundation; they would seem to last longer under than out of water.

The natives make also rope of the fibres of monkey bread, cane, aloe, "Farrah."

The fish is abundant, cheap, and similar to what is found in the Senegal Coast, a detailed scientific description of which will be found in the "Faune de la Senegambie" par A. S. Rochbrane.

The fishermen are chiefly aliens as regards this Settlement, composed of lebons of Senegal. Net, hook and line, and harpoons from canoes are used as implements of catch.

Mines have not been discovered within the Settlement, but their sites are, if not bordered, neared by the Upper Gambia. The gold mines of Bambouk or Bambarra, near to the scource of the Gambia, are of notoriety.

Gaols and Prisons.

The following is a statement showing the number of committals during 1884 as compared with 1883. Like information for the previous 10 years is to be found in my Blue Book Report for 1883:—

Year.	Total Number of Persons Committed.	For Debt.	For safe Custody, or want of Bail.	For purpose of Penal Punishment.	Daily average in Prison.	Number of Admissions to Hospital.	Daily Average on Sick List.	Number of Deaths.
1883	127	7	22	98	28	49	2	4
1884	128	11	24	93	33	60	1	1 prisoner on trial.

Of the persons (128) committed, there were 104 men, 10 women, and 14 juveniles (12 males and 2 females). This total may be again subdivided into 117 criminal and 11 debt prisoners. There was one male escape in 1884; there were two cases of flogging—of a male with the regulation cat, and of a male juvenile with regulation birch rod.

The expenditure on account of the gaol department for the year was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Establishment - - -	297	19	0
Services - - - -	417	9	2
Total - -	715	8	2

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I hope to be able in Blue Book report for current year to give a fairly accurate estimate of value to Settlement of prison labour. Previous gaol records do not so admit.

In addition to the nature of labour of prisoners, as described in the Blue Book, under goals and prisons—Answer to Question VIII. —I have initiated steps for the manufacture by the prisoners, inside the gaol, of fibre rope, fibre mats, and matting, which should have some monetary result, without undue or undesirable interference with free industries.

Criminal Statistics.

The following particulars will admit of comparison between 1883 and 1884:—

Year.	Total Number of Offences reported.	Offences against the Person.	Larceny.	Offences to Property other than prædial Larceny.	Other Offences.
1883 -	510	154	109	33	214
1884 -	456	132	102	13	209

Apprehensions and Summonses, and Disposition of foregoing Cases.

Year.	Number discharged for want of Prosecution or Evidence.	Number of Cases dismissed on the Merits.	Number of Persons summarily convicted.	Number of Persons committed for Trial in the Superior Courts.
1883 - -	162	109	222	17
1884 - -	197	55	174	30

Year.	Assaults and other Offences against the Person.	Malicious Injuries to Property.	Larceny.	Other Offences to Property.	Offences relating to Social Economy of Gambia.	Offences against Masters and Servants Acts.	Other Offences.	Total.
1883	70	—	54	4	—	8	86	222
1884	36	—	33	1	—	6	98	174

Punishments in connexion with foregoing.

Year.	Fine.	Imprisonment in lieu of Fine or Surety.	Peremptory Imprisonment.	Whipping.	Bound over with or without Sureties or other minor Punishment.	Total.	Remarks.
1883	102	13	84	10	13	222	
1884	116	8	44	—	6	174	

Indictments and Informations in the Superior Courts.

Year.	Murder, other than Wife and Child murder.	Manslaughter.	Attempt to Murder.	Rape.	Other Offences against the Person.	Malicious injuries to Property.	Murder of Wife.	Robbery with Violence.	Larceny.	Other Offences against Property.	Miscellaneous Offences.	Total.
1883	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	11	1	17
1884	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	16	6	4	30

Statement as to ending of Cases tried in the Superior Courts.

Year.	Judgment for the Crown.	Judgment for the Prisoner.	Prisoner found Insane.	Cases fell through for want of Prosecution.	Total.	Remarks.
1883 - -	8	4	—	5	17	
1884 - -	15	9	—	6	30	

The number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last five years are afforded in the following comparative table:—

Headings.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Apprehensions -	502	427	383	510	456
Convictions -	255	197	177	230	189
Acquittals -	247	226	206	280	267

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The following is the detail of the district distribution of offences committed in the Settlement for 1884, and may be judged as fairly gauging the operation of the law:—

	Stealing.	Indecent Assaults and Assaults and Wounding.	Abusive Language.	Master and Servants.	Drunk and Disorderly.	Attempt to Shoot.	Receiving stolen Property.	Escape from lawful custody.	Refusing to fence lot.	Threatening language.	Fighting.
The Island of St. Mary	92	111	23	20	20	—	1	2	2	3	10
British Combo - -	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
The Ceded Mile (Barra District).	1	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
M'Carthy's Island -	2	15	22	—	10	—	—	1	—	1	19
	95	129	45	20	30	1	2	3	2	4	29

(*Continued.*)

	Breach of Market Ordinance.	Supplying food to prisoner.	Breach of Gun Ordinance.	Slave dealing.	Resisting Constable in the execution of duty.	Holding communication before pratique.	Entering premises with intent to commit felony.	Obtaining money by false pretences.	Committing Nuisance	Arson.	Breach of Apprentice and Alien Ordinance.
The Island of St. Mary	18	1	8	—	2	1	4	3	8	—	4
British Combo - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
The Ceded Mile (Barra District).	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
M'Carthy's Island -	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	5	—	—
	18	1	8	3	3	1	4	3	13	2	4

(*Continued.*)

	Embezzlement.	Breach of Sailor's Ordinance.	Malicious injury to property.	Breach of Registry of Births and Ordinances.	Kidnap.	Riot.	Trespass.	Housebreaking.	Disobeying order of the Court of Requests.	Rape.	Perjury.	Total.
The Island of St. Mary	4	9	2	2	—	1	—	3	3	2	2	358
British Combo - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
The Ceded Mile (Barra District).	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	8
M'Carthy's Island -	—	—	2	—	1	—	5	—	1	—	—	86
	4	9	4	2	1	1	5	5	4	2	2	456

Hospitals and Lunatic Asylum.

There remained in the hospital from 1883 seven male and eight female patients; during 1884 there were admitted 216, of whom 187 were males and 41 females; the total for 1883 stood at 283, made up of 242 males and 41 females. 26 deaths, as compared with 32 in the previous year, occurred in the hospital. The former were represented by 18 males and 8 females.

The principal diseases (and consequent death treated) during the year will be found in the following table :—

Diseases Treated.	Number of Cases.	Number of Deaths.
Abscess	6	—
Adynamia	9	2
Alcoholism	4	—
Anasaroa	6	1
Diabetes	2	—
Brain	20	5
Circulatory organs	11	2
Cutaneous system	3	1
Digestive organs	36	4
Generative organs	5	—
Nervous system	7	—
Respiratory organs	20	6
Fever intermittent	28	—
Moribund	1	1
Ophthalmia	1	1
Rheumatism	16	1
Scrofula	3	1
Ulcers	15	2
Venereal Disease	16	—
Wounds	22	—
Total	231	26

On the close of the year there were to be found in hospital eight males and two female) patients; no such institution as lunatic asylum or poor house exists in the Settlement. As to former, advantage is taken, at the cost of this Settlement, of the asylum at Sierra Leone. Although there is no poor house, yet extended charitable relief is afforded through the heads of the different Christian bodies, to whom quarterly monetary grants are made for general distribution. Helpless cases are also admitted to the hospital, where they receive good lodging and medical attention.

General Remarks.

This Settlement remained throughout the year gratefully free from any epidemic or contagious disease, although Freetown, the capital of the sister Settlement of Sierra Leone, was subjected, in June 1884, to the presence of what was alleged to have been yellow fever.

The existence of cholera in the latter half of the year, in France, Italy, and Spain, necessitated, in consequence of the shipping connexion, the enforcement against those countries of quarantine restrictions.

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The work of vaccination was resumed during the year with some success.

Considerable sanitary improvement was effected in Bathurst by the supply of public latrines, erected over sites under the regular influence of the tide; there were also supplied public dustbins, which are daily emptied by sanitary carts, the contents being buried at the low swampy part of Half Die.

An appreciated local exhibition in June of the Gambia contribution of woods and products for the International Edinburgh Wood Fair, 1884, for which a silver medal was awarded, was held in the Council Chamber of Government House, which I allowed to be used for the purpose.

In an agricultural sense, comparatively little local encouragement in the past has been given by those who should be specially interested in the subject. Marketable articles on presentation, are, perhaps, bought: but little or no interest on the part of those to whom it is of most immediate moment is directed towards the development of the resources of the country, by the practical enlightenment of the natives from whom, in the circumstances, too much is expected, as to what may or not be in their country of commercial value.

The ground nut has stood pre-eminently now for many years as the commercial idol of the Gambia. Native marauding raids for purposes of cattle lifting or slave catching, or uncertainty of tenure as regards alien states, townships, or villages, have affected and militated against the extent of its growth, while impoverished soil and disease have of late years affected its quality.

Manuring is little or not at all resorted to, being cheaply and chiefly represented by occasional bush burning on sites to be cultivated.

Natives are conservative and are indisposed to change sites, which means trouble and increased labour.

Everything is taken out of the ground, comparatively nothing is put into it. For instance, as regards ground nuts, both fruit, plant, and root, are removed: the first for the oil or confectionery markets of Europe and America, the two last as horse or cattle food; and as to corn, the fruit is required for food, home consumption, or sale, and the stalk for fences, thatching, or mats.

Of available dyes, and they are many, the indigenous indigo plants (there are two I know of here), offer a field for extensive growth that should prove, not only in the Gambia but on this coast, of much commercial success and monetary return. Crudely precipitated specimens from the Upper Niger, which I took to England in 1883, were pronounced as worth 4*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* per lb., and it was then alleged that if the earthy matter which my specimen contained could be eliminated in the manufacture, the indigo dye would be worth more, and might, perhaps, rival Bengal.

The Gambia Settlement is flanked on either side by countries exporting gum largely, and yet, odd as it may seem, this article has not so far ranked among the exports from this grand river. Although those interested commercially have endeavoured to

convince me to the contrary, I have personally made it my business to look into the matter, and have succeeded in assuring myself, by specimen proof, of the local existence of the same gum as is exported annually by millions of pounds weight from the adjacent Colony of Senegal. Indigenous in Fouta D'jalon, which is laved by the Upper Gambia, is coffee, which originally from that source, has now by dint of energy, speculation, and cultivation become an article of export from the rivers that lie between this Colony and Sierra Leone; yet coffee has never been put hence on the market.

Beniseed, corn, and rice might be luxuriantly grown and developed in an agricultural sense to a sufficiency not only for home consumption but also for profitable export. The "Gofio" eating people of the Canaries and Cape Verde Islands present a near and fixed market for Indian corn, of which there might be obtained here two crops a year.

There is much room, both as to space and adaptability of soil, for the extensive growth of the oil palm, the cocoanut palm, the castor oil, and cotton plants. The turqueira (physic) nut is to be found here, though not extensively yet in luxuriant form. Much attention is now given to its growth in the adjoining Cape Verde Islands.

Some years ago the Gambia was well represented in the European timber markets; it yet offers a field rich in its celebrated mahogany, rosewood, ebony, runs, &c.

The last mentioned thrives better in water than out of it, and would answer for foundations of buildings in Holland.

The local rubber industry began to develop in 1882, and by the extension of proper instructions in modes of collection, as also in the establishment of a proper knowledge of the value of the vines, so as to avoid their wholesale destruction, has room for much increase.

Unfortunately here, as elsewhere in the collection of rubber, it is a regular case I fear of killing the goose for the golden egg.

The value of the exports in this commodity in 1883 was 6,047*l.*, and in 1884, 23,213*l.*

For a local trade, especially in tomatoes so largely consumed by the Wolofs of these parts, kitchen gardening might be promoted, with considerable pecuniary advantage, much more so than is the case.

Results have proved that cabbages, tomatoes, lettuce, beet root, parsley, watercress, pumpkins, melons, pine apples, guavas, bananas, mangos, even European strawberries, as fine as could be desired, may be grown here during certain months of the year.

Under "Mail Service" I remarked upon the means existing for telegraphic communication with Europe.

Direct telegraphic communication hence with Europe, either by means of the laying of a cable between Dakar and Bathurst, 70 or 80 miles, or by the extension of the Senegal land wire (50 miles), or by the continuation of the cable European connection with St. Vincent (270 or 280 miles), Cape Verde Islands, a more liberal and convenient mail service both with England

GAMBIA.

and Sierra Leone, a lowering of the English freight tariff, so as to admit of more direct and full import of English goods, the lighting up of the sea approach and entry to the Gambia, a new Government wharf or landing stage laid with tramways, of sufficient size to accommodate at one time two average sized steamers for the centralization and expedition of the local import and export trade, rapid means of personal locomotion by tramcar to Cape St. Mary, the health resort of this capital, now more than ever that the Oyster Creek Bridge has been finished, reclamation of, and filling in of swampy land adjoining Bathurst, a new Court House, extended gaol accommodation, road and street improvements, a public library, and an improved water supply, represent wants of much moment to the development of this Settlement, which, it is to be hoped, may gradually come at no distant date within the sphere of practicable and visible improvements.

Again, there are no such institutions as contagious diseases hospital and poor house, but the consideration of their supply has not escaped the attention of the Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY,
Administrator.

His Excellency
The Governor-in-Chief.
&c. &c. &c.
Sierra Leone.

HELIGOLAND.

No. 5.

Governor J. T. NICHOLLS O'BRIEN, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

MY LORD, Heligoland, March 24, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book returns of Heligoland for the year 1885.

Revenue.

The sum raised locally during the year amounted to 4,290*l.* 15*s.* 1½*d.*, and that derived from the bathing season to 3,657*l.* 3*s.* 0½*d.*, giving a total of 7,947*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* against 8,336*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.*, in 1884, figures that at first sight would appear to indicate a falling off in the Colonial revenue; when, however, it is borne in mind that the latter sum included extraordinary receipts, such as salvage, 207*l.*, temporary loan, 150*l.*, import dues on stranded wine, 150*l.*, &c., the results of the two years are slightly in favour of 1885.

Expenditure and Public debt.

The island expenditure for last year was 4,450*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, and that on account of the bathing 3,266*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, making a total of 7,717*l.*; in 1884 it was 7,700*l.*, deducting the temporary loan,

which, however, I did not require last year, which figured as a refund; and bearing in mind that besides paying off a considerable portion (735*l.*) of our debt (making a total of 1,841*l.* during the four years of my tenure of office) it would appear that the expenditure was also less.

Public Works.

A custom or spirit store was built, a store for petroleum was put up, and considerable outlay was incurred in improvements to our pier, streets, &c.; at the same time Sandy Island was not neglected, and I am happy to say the work done has saved much of the beach from being washed away and has very considerably increased the area for bathing.

Legislation.

There was but one Ordinance enacted last year, viz., for the prevention of adulteration of goods offered for sale.

Civil Service.

The principal changes have been consequent on the resignation of the late clergyman as well as in that of the rector of the schools, changes I have every reason to be satisfied with.

Population.

Though the population has only increased by 3, the deaths, 41 in number, give an average age for those over one year old of 63 years, which, together with the great immunity from death in childhood, shows, *vide* annexed table, that the wonderful reputation for salubrity of the Island is maintained.

Savings Bank.

The amount in deposits in the Savings Bank gives a slight increase as compared with former years, showing, I am glad to say, that the advantages of this institution are commencing to be felt by this peculiarly conservative race.

Fishery.

I am sorry to report that the fishing seasons, both in spring and autumn, have been unusually bad.

Bathing season.

The result of the bathing season, however, although much affected by the inclemency of the weather in the most fashionable months, was on the whole as good as that of 1884, a most exceptional year, our visitors having risen to 7,338, exclusive of several thousands excursionists, a rise which was owing no doubt to there being now some 21 steamers a week plying between Heligoland and the Continent in the season.

Crime

There has been an entire absence of crime last year, the people being generally most law abiding and quiet.

HELIGOLAND.

Meteorological Observations.

I am enabled to furnish these through the agency of one of our school teachers, who is in charge of the tide metre constructed and maintained by the German Government, which also has supplied him with the necessary meteorological instruments, hence the figures are given according to the standard obtaining in that country.

General Remarks.

Last year has been rendered remarkable by the construction of two works of importance, one the erection by a German company of a lift worked by steam power, said to be the highest but one in the world, to convey passengers and goods from the lower to the upper town, a great convenience to both inhabitants and visitors; and, secondly, by the rebuilding and presentation to his native land of a new and handsome tower and spire to our only church, by R. C. Rickmers, Esq., a gentleman who has added this munificent gift to the many acts of charity that have rendered his name known both here and on the Continent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. O'BRIEN, Lieut.-Col.,
Governor of Heligoland.

To the Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

List of Deaths during the Year 1885, *with Stages of Age attained.*

Stages of Age.	Number of deaths during each stage.	Ages of Individuals.	Total number of years
1 to 10 - -	2	7, 8 - - - -	15
10 „ 20 - -	1	10 - - - -	10
20 „ 30 - -	2	26, 23 - - - -	49
30 „ 40 - -	2	38, 35 - - - -	73
40 „ 50 - -			
50 „ 60 - -	2	58, 59 - - - -	117
60 „ 70 - -	9	67, 62, 66, 61, 69, 61, 67, 66, 66 -	585
70 „ 80 - -	6	74, 70, 77, 78, 76, 71 - -	446
80 „ 90 - -	9	85, 89, 85, 81, 80, 87, 81, 84, 83 -	755
90 „ 100 -	1	92 - - - -	92
Total deaths	34	Total years - -	2,142
		Average age, 63 years.	

MEMO.—Besides the above, two children were stillborn, one died two days after birth, one four, and one nine days, one child lived eight weeks, and one 11 months. In addition to which one case of suicide occurred.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 6.

The OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT of JAMAICA to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

MY LORD, King's House, March 26, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1885, together with the report of the Commssioner thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G M. WISEMAN-CLARKE,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon.
The Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS for the year 1885.

1. *Taxes and Duties*

The new tariff which was given in the report on the Blue Book for 1884 came into operation on the 1st January. The result has been a considerable falling off in the revenue derived from customs, as with a total value of imports of 27,857*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* the duties amounted to only 2,726*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* as against 3,000*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* collected in 1884, when the value of the imports was only 26,623*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The receipts during the year amounted to 7,261*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, which, added to the balance of 1884 of 2,495*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, gave a total revenue of 9,756*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* The expenditure was 7,076*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a surplus balance of 2,680*l.* 12*s.*

3. *Imports and Exports.*

About the same amount of salt was raked as in the previous year, but there was less demand for it, so that a larger quantity

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

remained on hand at the end of the year. The prices obtained were barely remunerative. The following tables show the trade as compared with previous years.

VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES in the years 1883, 1884, and 1885.

Articles.	1883.	1884.	1885.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salt - - - -	24,950 0 5	27,836 10 8	24,197 1 11
Cave earth - - -	6,265 16 0	4,028 9 0	1,818 13 4
Sponge - - - -	632 19 5	489 13 11	356 18 0
Straw, shells, &c. - -	285 19 0	182 8 0	180 0 0
Totals - -	32,134 14 10	32,537 1 7	26,552 13 3

VALUE of IMPORTS for the years 1883, 1884, and 1885.

—	1883.	1884.	1885.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Imports - -	24,557 13 8	26,623 1 5	27,857 16 2

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each Port for the five years 1880 to 1884; and EXPORT for the years 1884 and 1885.

Ports.	1880 to 1884.	1884.	1885.
Grand Turk - -	602,266	623,140	604,449
Salt Cay - - -	464,539	724,608	368,517
Cockburn Harbour -	453,458	629,623	655,254
Total - -	1,520,263	1,977,371	1,628,220

Salt in the Colony on 31st December 1884 - 150,000 bushels.
" " " 1885 - 450,000 "

RAINFALL at GRAND TURK, SALT CAY, COCKBURN HARBOUR, and KEW for each month of the year 1885, compared with the average of four years.

Months.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
January - - -	·71	1·08	·40	1·25
February - -	·28	·26	·81	1·03
March - - -	·65	·43	·67	·37
April - - -	·75	·57	·25	2·56
May - - -	·65	·20	·80	8·25
June - - -	·30	·52	·61	1·10
July - - -	2·68	2·29	·97	7·50
August - - -	1·24	1·11	1·67	2·83
September - -	4·04	2·08	1·38	—
October - - -	1·27	·85	1·24	5·26
November - -	2·08	1·55	1·97	6·72
December - -	5·48	3·90	5·30	5·08
Total - -	20·13	13·84	16·07	41·95
Average for four years, 1882 to 1885 - -	25·86	20·90	24·20	39·96

RETURN for the Year ending 31st December 1885.

—	War Vessels.	Steamers.	Ships.	Barques.	Barkantines.	Brigs.	Brigantines.	Schooners.	Three-masted Schooners.	Total.
Number and class of vessels that passed through the Turks Islands Passage by daylight - - -	1	7	1	15	9	1	40	56	28	158
Number and class of vessels that passed the lighthouse and anchored at Turks Islands - - -	1	29	1	7	7	0	51	52	40	188
Total - -	2	36	2	22	16	1	91	108	68	346

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4. *Comparative Yearly Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.*

SCHEDULE of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the PUBLIC REVENUE for the year 1885, in comparison with the preceding year 1884.

Imports.	1884.			1885.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Alcohol	0	16	0	1	12	0
Ale, porter, cider, &c.	16	4	0	12	16	6
Bay water	12	19	0	15	8	0
Beans and peas	2	4	2	—		
Bread	18	8	5	14	2	9
Butter	51	16	9	55	1	4
Candles	4	7	7	—		
Cattle and Calves	3	8	9	—		
Cheese	20	1	3	22	12	10
Chocolate	4	13	10	—		
Cigars	4	17	10	13	17	8
Coffee	5	11	9	—		
Cordage	2	8	3	—		
Cordials	1	2	6	1	2	6
Corn	4	10	7	—		
Fish, dried and pickled	13	14	2	—		
Flour, wheat	452	6	7	499	10	0
Flour, rye, and corn meal	22	10	9	—		
Horses	12	0	0	—		
Lard	64	5	10	81	12	0
Lumber and shingles	31	9	0	35	18	2
Meat, salted and cured	142	17	7	140	3	1
Molasses, syrup, and honey	59	4	10	—		
Oils	53	16	3	28	8	11
Paint in oil	10	9	6	10	7	5
Pitch, tar, and rosin	2	2	0	—		
Raisins, currants, and figs	3	1	7	—		
Rice	53	16	1	65	17	7
Rum, brandy, gin, &c.	599	1	2	616	2	0
Sheep and goats	0	1	0	—		
Soap	38	9	2	42	9	1
Sugar	250	1	6	175	11	6
Swine	0	1	8	—		
Tea	23	12	6	32	6	6
Tobacco	39	7	8	51	7	10
Wine	57	0	5	21	9	4
Ad valorem duties	917	4	5	789	2	2
	3,000	14	4	2,726	19	2
Other Sources of Revenue.						
Royalty of 10 per cent. ad valorem on salt exported: in 1884—1,977,371 bushels; in 1885—1,628,220 bushels	2,997	18	7	2,374	11	7
Light duties	948	10	8	779	3	0
Auction duties	60	15	3	26	6	10
Fines from Supreme and Police Courts	87	0	9	128	5	7
Fees of office	63	5	1	75	6	10
Postage	152	5	6	146	8	8
Post Office Money Order commissions	12	3	1	8	13	9
Liquor licenses	75	0	0	75	0	0
Wine „	58	0	0	58	0	0
Dog Tax	17	6	6	14	18	6
Sales Crown land	4	4	5	20	0	0
Lease „ „	36	9	6	53	12	6

Imports.	1884.			1885.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Receipt from Imperial Post Office - -	300	0	0	300	0	0
Wharfage and storage - - - -	60	18	6	38	11	6
Miscellaneous—Sales Government property, &c. -	196	0	0	194	19	8
Royalty on cave earth exported - - -	250	7	0	110	8	0
Special - - - - - -	155	7	0	130	8	10
	5,475	11	10	4,534	15	3
Recapitulation.						
Imports - - - - - -	3,000	14	4	2,726	19	2
Other sources - - - - -	5,475	11	10	4,534	15	3
	8,476	6	2	7,261	14	5
Balance from 1883 and 1884 - - -	1,997	6	4	2,495	3	4
	10,473	12	6	9,756	17	9
Expenditure for 1884 and 1885 - - -	7,978	9	2	7,076	5	9
Balance for 1885 and 1886 - - -	2,495	3	4	2,680	12	0

5. *Public Works.*

The chief public work executed during the year was the customs warehouse at Grand Turk, which was completed for 483*l.*, a considerable excess on the original estimate. It is as satisfactory as could be expected, considering that it was erected without any skilled supervision, but the iron doors do not fit, and strain the walls so greatly that they already require attention, and the building promises to be a fruitful source of expense.

The walls of the new public offices at Cockburn Harbour were raised as far as the plate at the cost of 239*l.* There are charges outstanding for the balance due to the mason on his contract, and for a portion of the lumber which has been imported from America, which bring the expenditure to 380*l.* It is expected that the building when finished will cost not less than 500*l.*, an excess of 25 per cent. on the estimate. I shall try and cut down the remaining expenses as much as possible. The general public buildings are in fair order except the police station at Grand Turk, which is in the last stage of decay, and the out-buildings attached to the Commissioner's house, which are very unpicturesque ruins. It is proposed to erect a new stone police station, combined with a fireproof record office, as soon as sanction can be obtained.

6. *Legislation.*

There were seven Ordinances passed during the year, the only ones of general importance, except the Appropriation Ordinances, being No. 4, which provides for prisoners under long sentences being sent to the Penitentiary in Jamaica; and No. 5, which reconstitutes the Supreme Court, and much simplifies the procedure.

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7. *Civil Establishment.*

Mr. R. B. Llewelyn left the Colony on the 29th of August, on appointment to the administration of Tobago, and Mr. F. S. Sanguinetti, of the Colonial Secretary's Department, Jamaica, acted as Commissioner until the arrival on the 23rd November of Captain Jackson, who had been appointed to succeed Mr. Llewelyn. Mr. Stamers, who had been acting as Assistant Commissioner at Cockburn Harbour, was confirmed in that appointment, and Mr. L. S. Leslie was appointed to the new office of Resident Magistrate for the Caicos Islands, to reside on the North Caicos, and took up the duties of his appointment in August. The Government Medical Officer was absent on leave from May to October, his duties being performed by Dr. Astwood, until that gentleman's death in July, and afterwards by Dr. Baker. The turnkey of the gaol died in December, and his place has not yet been filled.

8. *Pensions.*

8. Messrs. Tucker and Manuel, whose pensions amounted respectively to 126*l.* and 13*l.* 6*s.*, died during the year; and the list was further diminished by the death of the widow of a public officer with a pension amounting to 10*l.* 2*s.*, causing a total decrease of 149*l.* 8*s.* Fresh pensions, amounting in all to 164*l.* 10*s.*, will be added to the list this year.

9. *Education.*

For the first time the whole of the schools had the advantage of a thorough inspection by an assistant inspector of schools from Jamaica, whose report follows. With regard to his suggestion in paragraph seven, that the subjects to be taught should be clearly defined, I would remark that I was told that a gentleman lately visiting a school at one of the most isolated districts, where a knowledge of the three R's would probably more than satisfy the requirements of the children, found the master engaged instructing his class in the "Theory of Tides!" Comment is needless.

SIR, Kingston, August 1, 1885.

I have the honour of presenting herewith, for the information of the Board of Education of the Turks and Caicos Islands, a report on the elementary schools of that dependency. These schools were examined by me in June and July of the present year, and are eight in number, six of them being public schools, established and maintained by the Government, and two are private schools under the management of the Wesleyan Minister, the Rev. J. B. Gedye. These latter receive no aid from the public funds. There are besides three small private schools, attended by children of the more well-to-do classes; these schools I had no opportunity of inspecting.

2. As the elementary schools had been already inspected once before, I had some valuable data at hand for comparison, and I was thus enabled to form an accurate estimate of the progress made in education since December 1883, when Mr. C. Plummer made his tour of inspection. I am glad to say that very substantial progress has been made; that many of the defects pointed out by Mr. Plummer have been remedied; that better teachers are employed; that the attendance of pupils has much increased; and that the standing of the schools as a whole is much higher than it was 18 months ago. The following table shows the results in 1885 as compared with those in 1883.

Schools.	Number of pupils present on inspection.		No. of marks obtained.		Remarks.
	1883.	1885.	1883.	1885.	
1. Grand Turk - -	220	202	40	45	
2. Salt Cay - - -	29	55	19	39	
3. East Harbour - -	35	73	18	27	Failure.
4. Kew - -	80	101	41	45	
5. Bottle Creek - -	29	closed	18	closed	Failure.
6. Lorimers - - -	Not inspected	75	Not inspected	25	
7. Blue Hills - - -	Not inspected	92	Not inspected	32	
Private Schools:—					
8. Grand Turk - -	47	45	51	58	
9. East Harbour - -	Not inspected	40	Not inspected	35	

Number of schools examined in	1883	-	6
Do.	do. 1885	-	8
Number of pupils examined in	1883	-	440
Do.	do. 1885	-	683
Average number of marks in	1883	-	31
Do.	do. 1885	-	38

It will be seen that all schools have made a perceptible advance, and that there are now no schools quite so low as Mr. Plummer found in 1883. Two schools are failures, having less than 28 marks; but even in those schools some useful work is done and the public money expended on them is not absolutely wasted. Still, the result of the inspection of these two schools is so little satisfactory, that the employment of reasonably efficient teachers instead of the present incapable ones is a pressing necessity. There would be no difficulty in getting trained and experienced men from Jamaica at the salary offered, viz., 5*l.* per month and a bonus if the school proves satisfactory on inspection.

3. Through the liberality of the Board of Education all the public schools are amply provided with all necessary school material. This is a wise as well as generous move and adds

greatly to the efficiency of the school. It would often be very difficult, perhaps almost impossible, for the pupils to procure the necessary slates or books for themselves, and it is far from satisfactory to see, as is frequently the case elsewhere, three or more pupils reading out of one book, or a row of children writing in copy books with only one pen between them, which they use by turns.

4. The number of schools maintained by the Government is below that suggested by Mr. Plummer, but it appears to be sufficient for the present wants, and it would hardly be advisable to increase the number of schools before the existing six schools are all thoroughly established and doing efficient work. But in two schools, Grand Turk and East Harbour, sufficient provision is not made for the number of pupils. In Grand Turk the teaching power is insufficient, and in East Harbour the school accommodation must be increased. It is necessary to secure the services of a third teacher for the Grand Turk public school, if the work is to be well and thoroughly done. Two teachers are not sufficient for this overgrown school. It is too unwieldy to be worked thoroughly and the pupils must suffer from want of individual attention. I would suggest a tri-section of the school into an infant school, containing all pupils below 10 years of age, a boys' school and a girls' school. The present master, who is a conscientious and able teacher, should retain the general superintendence, and in order to secure the harmonious working of the whole he should teach some lessons, perhaps arithmetic, in all the sections himself.

In East Harbour the very neat new school house is too small for the accommodation of all the pupils and the Wesleyan private school supplies the deficiency. I believe I am correct in saying that there is a sort of tacit understanding to the effect that, as the Wesleyan school is accommodating and teaching one half of the pupils, the public school need only provide tuition for the remaining half. In any case it is a fact that the public school cannot accommodate all the childen, and that the Wesleyan school does part of the work which the public school should do. The Board of Education are in a difficulty. They must either provide sufficient accommodation for all the pupils, or else in fairness compensate the Wesleyan school for the work which it does for them. This latter course would imply a formal recognition of denominational schools and would create a hybrid system of education, which could not possibly work well. There is, however, a very strong and general feeling prevailing against any such mixed system, and the probability of its ever being adopted is fortunately very small. There is only one other course open. Let the Education Board provide for the tuition of all children attending school in East Harbour. This may best be done by adding another school-room and forming separate boys' and girls' schools.

5. Sewing is still much neglected, and I am sorry to say that no progress has been made in it since Mr. Plummer's visit. In

one school only (Grand Turk) is sewing taught regularly, but even there not all the girls are instructed in it. The sewing class contains only 43 out of 151 girls. At East Harbour there is a sewing mistress, but she has no sewing class, because she finds it impossible to get anything to sew for the pupils. The remedy in this case is obvious. A sewing mistress should be engaged who could interest parents and children sufficiently in her work to make the sewing class a success.

6. In arithmetic the results have been very moderate, but considering the disadvantages with which many of the schools had to contend, the progress made may on the whole be considered as fairly satisfactory. Much remains yet to be done to bring the pupils up to a fair grade of proficiency, and the teachers will do well to pay special attention to the thorough grounding in this subject. Of the 683 pupils examined by me, 246 were unable to work any sums on slates, 348 did sums in the simple rules, and only 89 could do higher work, such as sums in money, weights and measures, interest, &c. I gave in all 843 test sums to the pupils to be worked, not necessarily the same number of sums to each pupil, but as many as were necessary to enable me to form a correct judgment of the proficiency of each pupil. Of these 843 test sums, 196 were worked correctly, 209 were partly correct but contained minor errors, and 438 sums were failures. The following table shows the work done in the separate schools.

Number of Pupils.

Name of School.	Not doing sums.	Doing simple rules.	Doing higher sums.	Total number of tests.	Test sums worked correctly.	Test sums worked in part correctly.
Grand Turk - -	52	116	34	205	44	68
Salt Cay - -	15	29	11	84	23	12
East Harbour -	36	32	5	81	4	17
Kew - - -	47	50	4	105	54	30
Lorimers - -	49	18	8	41	—	3
Blue Hills - -	35	57	—	157	14	35
Private :—						
Grand Turk -	—	27	18	112	49	29
East Harbour -	12	19	9	58	8	15
Total -	246	384	89	843	196	209

7. I found much uncertainty among the teachers as to what subjects they were obliged to teach. Some thought that three R's and Bible knowledge were all that was required, and that it was optional to them to teach grammar, object lessons, and geography or not. It would be well to define clearly what subjects are to be taught, and I would suggest that our Jamaica standards be

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

adopted. These standards are not perfect in all respects, and I venture to think that they might be improved, but on the whole they appear to me very suitable. They are beyond a doubt very much better fitted for the requirements of the Turks and Caicos Islands than any standards which might be introduced from England or the United States.

8. I regret to see that it is intended to have the schools inspected only once every two years. It would be much better to have annual inspections. The interval of two years is too long to test accurately the amount of work done and to keep in sight the progress in the various branches, the advancement of the individual scholars, the mending of defects, the working of new or improved methods, and various other matters which are dealt with on inspection. I am convinced that while the expense of having annual instead of biennial inspections is only double, the beneficial and stimulating effects on the schools are not twice, but at least four times, as great.

9. I enclose detailed reports on the results of the inspection in the different schools.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ORTH,
Assistant Inspector of Schools.

Hon. T. Capper,
Inspector of Schools, Kingston.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOL INSPECTION.

Subjects and Number of Marks obtained in each at the Examination.

GRAND TURK, July 1, 1885. R. G. WINT, Teacher.

Chief subjects :—		
Reading	7	
Writing from dictation	7	
Arithmetic	6	
	—	20
Secondary subjects :—		
Scripture knowledge	3	
General knowledge	2	
Grammar and composition	2	
Geography and history	3	
Handwriting	4	
Singing	4	
Organisation	4	
Discipline	3	
	—	25
Total marks		45

Teaching power insufficient.

GRAND TURK, Wesleyan, July 2, 1885. E. MAIR, Teacher.

Chief subjects:—		
Reading	10	
Writing from dictation	10	
Arithmetic	7	
		— 27
Secondary subjects:—		
Scripture knowledge	4	
General knowledge	3	
Grammar and composition	3	
Geography and history	3	
Handwriting	4	
Singing	4	
Organisation	5	
Discipline	5	
		— 31
Total marks		58

SALT CAY, June 30, 1885. NATH. ASTWOOD, Teacher.

Chief subjects:—		
Reading	8	
Writing from dictation	8	
Arithmetic	4	
		— 20
Secondary subjects:—		
Scripture knowledge	3	
General knowledge	1	
Grammar and composition	2	
Geography and history	1	
Handwriting	4	
Singing	2	
Organisation	3	
Discipline	3	
		— 19
Total Marks		39

Classes miscalled. Time-table defective. No log book. No division into sections. All arithmetic should be taught by Astwood.

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EAST HARBOUR, Caicos Islands, June 25, 1885. T. T. GODET, Teacher.

Chief subjects :—		
Reading	6	
Writing from dictation	6	
Arithmetic	2	
	—	14
Secondary subjects :—		
Scripture knowledge	2	
General knowledge	0	
Grammar and composition	1	
Geography and history	1	
Handwriting	3	
Singing	8	
Organisation	1	
Discipline	2	
	—	13
Total marks		27

A failure. There should be a correct time-table in the school strictly adhered to. Work should begin sooner than 11 a.m. There should be a daily journal kept. The daily attendance register should not be filled up in pencil. The lower classes should not be totally neglected in Bible history and geography Above all things a capable teacher should be employed.

EAST HARBOUR, West, June 25, 1885. ALEXANDER PHILIPS, Teacher.

Chief subjects :—		
Reading	7	
Writing from dictation	6	
Arithmetic	3	
	—	16
Secondary subjects :—		
Scripture knowledge	2	
General knowledge	1	
Grammar and composition	2	
Geography and history	2	
Handwriting	3	
Singing	3	
Organisation	3	
Discipline	3	
	—	19
Total marks		35

Arithmetic is weak. The junior children are neglected in the minor subjects. There should be a time-table in the school.

KEW, North Caicos, June 19, 1885. SOLOMON BROWN, Teacher.

Chief subjects :—		
Reading - - - - -	7	
Writing from dictation - - -	7	
Arithmetic - - - - -	6	
	—	20
Secondary subjects :—		
Scripture knowledge - - - -	3	
General knowledge - - - -	2	
Grammar and composition - - -	2	
Geography and history - - -	3	
Handwriting - - - -	4	
Singing - - - - -	3	
Organisation - - - -	4	
Discipline - - - -	4	
	—	25
Total marks		45

BLUE HILLS, June 22, 1885. J. W. MILBOURN, Teacher.

Chief subjects :—		
Reading - - - - -	5	
Writing from dictation - - -	4	
Arithmetic - - - - -	4	
	—	13
Secondary subjects :—		
Scripture knowledge - - - -	2	
General knowledge - - - -	1	
Grammar and composition - - -	1	
Geography and history - - -	2	
Handwriting - - - - -	2	
Singing - - - - -	2	
Organisation - - - - -	4	
Discipline - - - - -	5	
	—	19
Total marks		32

Junior classes neglected in minor subjects. No sectional teaching. Handwriting requires very great attention.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

LORIMERS, North Caicos, June 17, 1885. J. J. TUCKER, Teacher.

Chief subjects:—		
Reading	5	
Writing from dictation	4	
Arithmetic	1	
	—	10
Secondary subjects:—		
Scripture knowledge	2	
General knowledge	1	
Grammar and composition	1	
Geography and history	1	
Handwriting	3	
Singing	3	
Organisation	1	
Discipline	3	
	—	15
Total marks		25

A failure. There should be a time-table. There should be, as soon as possible, a change of teacher.

(Signed) THOMAS CAPPER,
Inspector of Schools.

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10. *General Remarks.*

The public bank was formally wound up during the year, at a cash loss to the Government of a little over 300*l.*, but we have been enabled to acquire 8 acres of Salt Pond property, formerly owned by the bank, at such a low rate that it is hoped that the sale of it may nearly, if not quite, cover the loss.

The low price of salt led to much depression, and was the cause of a considerable increase in the pauper list, the vote of 200*l.* for poor relief being exceeded by 73*l.* The manner in which this vote is managed is far from satisfactory, through no fault, however, of the officers entrusted with its disbursement, who do their best with a bad system. It is a question, which must be considered during the present year, whether the re-opening of the old poor house as a poor house proper, combined with a hospital, would not give more real relief, and do more good than rather promiscuous doles of money and provisions, which, while unavoidably wasted in some cases, on undeserving objects, are insufficient for the really helpless poor.

Much distress was felt at the Caicos Islands owing to the entire failure of the crops from a continued drought, and but for the prompt steps taken by the Acting Commissioner to relieve the most urgent cases, many lives would have been shortened, if not

lost, from want of food. The problem as to how to prevent the annual recurrence of famine in these cays is difficult of solution. I shall wait to express an opinion until I have visited the Caicos Islands, which I hope to do shortly.

The financial prospects for 1886 are not very encouraging. Unusually heavy rains in January and February have thrown back the work of preparing the Salt Ponds, and the demand is at present almost nil. The salt trade appears each year to become less remunerative, and I am assured that even to large proprietors it affords but the barest livelihood. Better communication with the North American fisheries would do much for these Islands, but, with the prospect of the early withdrawal of the mail line to Halifax, the outlook is not encouraging. It is hoped that the proposed telegraph line from Halifax to Bermuda and Jamaica which cannot but pass close to these Islands, may establish a station here, as to be in direct connexion with the chief markets, would give the salt trade a wonderful impulse; but nothing is actually known yet of the intentions of the telegraph company.

(Signed) H. M. JACKSON,
Turks Islands, March 15, 1886. Commissioner.

BAHAMAS.

No. 7.

Governor H. A. BLAKE to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Government House, Nassau,
MY LORD, March 20, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1885.

Revenue.

2. The revenue for 1885 amounted to 45,466*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, being only 8*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* less than the amount collected last year. Remembering the dislocation of business caused by the stoppage of the public bank on the 13th March 1885, this result is gratifying, as showing that the affairs of the Colony are on a sound basis.

Expenditure.

3. The expenditure was 44,762*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, being a decrease on the expenditure of 1884 of 1,026*l.* 4*s* 7*d.* This decrease of expenditure was brought about by the abandonment of some important and necessary public works until the effect of the commercial crisis upon the revenue should be ascertained.

Crown Land Revenue.

4. The amount of Crown land revenue was 441*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*, which with 1,672*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* balance from 1884 made 2,114*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* The amount expended was 1,042*l.* 2*s.*, leaving a balance of 1,072*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

Salt Pond Revenue.

5. The amount of salt pond revenue was 60*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* which with balance from last year of 348*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* made 409*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* The amount expended was 54*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* leaving a balance of 354*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*

Public Debt.

6. The public debt of the Colony amounts to 83,126*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* Of this sum 35,000*l.* was borrowed in 1885 to pay off the amount due on current accounts in the public bank, which institution in consequence of the incompetence and irregularities of the cashier, temporarily suspended payment on the 13th March. The current accounts have now been paid off, and the affairs of the bank have been so arranged that within four years all outstanding debts recoverable will have been cleared off, leaving a balance of 7,000*l* over and above the liabilities of the bank.

Legislation.

7. Thirty-one Acts of the Legislature were passed during the session, of which seven were in relation to the borrowing of money and regulation of the public bank. Of the other Acts the most important were—

(1.) An Act for the protection of wild birds.
(2.) An Act to improve the administration of justice.
(3.) Post office Savings Bank Act.
(4.) Act defining the qualifications of electors, &c.

Political Franchise.

8. There are at present on the register 5,761 electors, who return 29 members to the House of Assembly. The effect of the 29th chapter of the Acts of the session of 1885 will be to add probably between 1,000 and 2,000 electors to the number now on the register :—

9. The Legislative Council consists of nine members nominated by the Governor.

Population.

10. The population at the census of 1881 was 43,521. At the end of 1885 it was 46,499. The birth rate and death rate for the past five years are given in the following table :—

	Birth rate.	Death rate.
1881 - - - -	36·44	21·75
1882 - - -	37·84	18·34
1883 - - - -	37·91	24·28
1884 - - - -	37·68	20·71
1885 - - - -	39·52	17·83

Education.

11. There are 33 schools in operation under the Board of Education with an attendance of 3,503 scholars at an annual expense of 2,171*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* A further sum of 60*l.* is granted in aid to five schools with an attendance of 356 children.

12. Besides the schools under the Board of Education there are 31 schools under the management of the Church of England, where 1,541 scholars have free education, and 15 private schools, with an attendance of 259. The Church of England schools are only established in localities where no Board Schools exist.

13. The school fee under the byelaws of the Board of Education is twopence per week for each scholar, the collection being in the hands of the teacher. It is found, however, that the collection is almost impracticable. The amount collected in 1885 was 117*l.* where, having regard to the number of scholars on the rolls, it ought to have reached at least 1,000*l.* A resolution has been moved during the present session of the Legislature to abolish school fees, and the matter has been referred to a select committee of the House of Assembly.

Imports.

14. The value of imports amounted to 235,060*l.*, or 53,566*l.* more than the total for 1884: but of this sum 48,135*l.* is accounted for by the specie imported from England for the business of the public bank, and a large quantity of cotton and wool salved from wrecks, so the regular imports of the Colony are about the same as last year.

BAHAMAS.

Exports.

15. The amount of exports was 180,279*l.*, of which sum 124,920*l.* was the produce of the Colony. As regards the produce of the Colony this sum represents a net increase of 22,209*l.* The pine-apple crop was the largest known for many years; the increase in this item of pine-apples was 18,834*l.* The increase in export of sapodillas was 1,491*l.*, and of the various grades of sponges 7,221*l.*, over the exports of 1884. Among the sponge exports a new item appears, sponge clippings to the amount of 211*l.* having been exported for the first time. Hitherto these clippings have been thrown away as refuse, but a demand has arisen in the American market for them. They are worked up into mattresses, and utilised in the production of cheap carpets.

16. On the other hand, the exports of cotton, straw baskets, straw hats, oranges, turtle shell, sea beans, and mahogany, have declined to the amount of 5,589*l.*

Shipping.

17. Four hundred sailing vessels, with a capacity of 35,996 tons, entered at ports in the Colony. Of this number 248, with a capacity of 19,153 tons, were British, and 152, with a capacity of 16,843 tons, were foreign. Of steam vessels 65 entered, with a capacity of 79,502 tons. British ships numbered 18, whose tonnage was 12,495, and 47 were foreign, with a tonnage of 67,007.

Agriculture.

18. The conditions under which the lands of the Colony are occupied are not conducive to an advanced system of cultivation; where plots of lands are not owned by the cultivators the cultivation is on the Metairie system. In either case the cultivation is primitive. Except in the case of pine-apples no crop requiring combined labour is grown. Patches of bush are cleared and burnt, and ground crops are grown, until the plots have been worked out, when the process is repeated,—no manure is used. No selection of seed is attempted. No division of crops is thought of. Each small cultivator plants year after year a heterogenous crop of corn, sweet potatoes, ground nuts, &c., until the exhausted soil refuses any further yield. Orange and other fruits are planted with a similar disregard for selection, and the fruits are gathered without care, and sold without being graded or packed. There are no owners, with capital, from whose more careful culture the example of improvement might in time permeate the mass of less intelligent producers. It will thus be seen how difficult it is to secure any advance in the principle on which these ground crops are grown. Before the manumission of the slaves, while the population was less, the number of persons employed in agriculture was greater for the area under cultivation. Cotton and sugar were thus produced by combined labour under intelligent direc-

tion and supervision. Sweet potatoes, yams, corn, ground nuts, &c., were grown by the slaves as a perquisite, one day in the week being devoted to the cultivation of those crops. In the rebound from slavery, labour for the cultivation of the staple crops of cotton, &c. could not be procured, and gradually the owners of property withdrew, leaving the land to be cultivated by the people with agreement to pay one third of the produce to their agents. Practically, the amounts received are not one twentieth, much less one third, while the value of the properties was further diminished by many of the tenants leaving them, and squatting on adjacent Crown lands. The owners, or their agents, in turn claimed the land so occupied, and frequently succeeded in obtaining from the ignorant squatters a portion of their produce. In this way much Crown land has from time to time been appropriated by owners in the struggle to prevent the loss of property through its abandonment by the labourers. One instance came under my notice where on re-survey of a property supposed to contain 1,200 acres over 2,000 acres were discovered to have been included, and on this 800 acres of Crown land were many tenants who for years had been paying their proportion to the adjoining owner.

19. The growing of pine-apples, however, has been undertaken on a different system. Here, the initial expenses of purchase of slips, and planting, have necessitated the use of capital, and with it, of supervision. Within the past two years experiments have been made in the use of fertilizers, with the happiest results. The size of the fruit has increased, and ground hitherto looked upon as exhausted has been found capable of producing crops equal to those grown on the best virgin soil. The practical effect will be to increase the area cultivable for pine-apples by five, and as the cave earth, which is now known to consist of the excreta of bats, and which contains between 60 and 70 per cent., of organic matter is a valuable fertilizer, of which large quantities can be procured in the Colony, I believe that as the knowledge spreads of its efficacy, the area of pine-apple cultivation will increase, and the quality of the fruit so improve as to enable it to compete successfully with pine-apples grown elsewhere.

20. The planting of cocoanuts is steadily proceeding. The trees grow well when planted on low land, so that the roots may readily penetrate to the stratum of fresh water that everywhere is found resting on salt water and rising and falling with the tide. These trees thrive better on the windward than on the leeward side of the islands.

21. Attention is now being directed to the production of the pita plant, which is peculiarly adapted to this soil and climate, the great fleshy leaves of that family resisting drought better than any other known plants. It grows with the greatest freedom, and with the minimum of labour. I have reason to believe that the extraction of the fibre by proper machinery will shortly be undertaken, and I have no doubt that the fibre will add in the future a valuable item to our exports.

Grazing Land.

22. Besides the lands cultivable for the crops mentioned there are on Long Island, Exuma, and Inagua, large tracts well suited for grazing. I visited lately the savannahs of Inagua where, if a sufficient amount were taken up, there is an excellent opening for the investment of capital in a cattle and sheep ranche, with a ready market in Cuba, which is only 60 miles distant. When I visited the savannah it was at its worst, it being then the dry season, yet it was covered with a coarse but succulent grass that afforded excellent grazing. There are between six thousand and ten thousand acres of the savannahs unappropriated.

Fisheries.

23. The fisheries are confined to turtling and sponging. The turtle fishing is gradually declining in consequence of the steady fall in the value of "tortoise shell" which is the outside plating of the carapace of the Hawksbill turtle. The sponge fishery of 1885 was particularly good. The sponges are not so fine a quality as those found in the Mediterranean. but they grow much faster, very small sponges becoming a good marketable size in from 18 months to two years.

Grants of Land.

24. Grants have been made of 1,632 acres during the year, 1,464,838 acres remaining ungranted. This number of ungranted acres is only approximate, if it can be said to be approximate, as no survey has been made. The ungranted land is, with the exception of the savannahs of Inagua, and the "pine barrens" of New Providence, Great Bahamas, and Andros, rocky, with the interstices filled with the earth gradually formed by the decaying leaves from the dense bush with which it is covered.

Gaols and Prisoners.

25. The number of persons committed to the prison was 351, of whom 98 were for want of security till trial. Of the remaining 253 but 74 were first convictions, 30 had been convicted once before, 24 twice, and 125 three or more times; 223 were sentenced to terms less than and up to three months, 20 for more than three months, and less than one year, and 10 for one year and over but less than five years. The daily average number of prisoners was 53·33, daily average on the sick list 2·84, and deaths two. The system in force is a mixed system of association by day and separation by night. While in association at work, the prisoners are under the supervision of officers, and silence is

imposed. There are 101 cells, each containing 800 cubic feet of air. Penal labour by shot drill is in force. The work performed is quarrying stones and preparing them for macadamising the roads. Outside the prison the prisoners are employed in gangs repairing roads, cleaning drains and weeding public roads. The cost of the prison for the year was 1,167*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, exclusive of salary of the keeper and chaplain. The estimated value of prisoners' labour was 586*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* A schoolmaster is employed, who teaches the prisoners from 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. daily. The sanitary state of the prison is excellent.

Criminal Statistics.

26. There were 2,185 offences reported, of which 463 were against the person, 37 prædial larceny, 184 offences against property, other than prædial larceny, and 1,501 other offences. Of this number 347 were discharged for want of prosecution, 559 were dismissed on the merits, 1,230 were summarily convicted, and 43 were committed for trial in general court. There was one conviction for murder, and the prisoner was hanged in due course.

New Providence Asylum.

27. The new Providence Asylum and Lunatic Asylum form portions of the same institution. There were 126 males and 117 females admitted during the year. The daily average number was 74·7. The institution is admirably conducted, but the wards are not as lofty or well arranged as could be wished. 63 persons died. This large mortality is accounted for by the fact that the people rarely apply for admission until they have exhausted the means of cure known to the "Bush" doctors or Obeah men. In many cases they are moribund when they arrive.

Lunatic Asylum.

28. There were eight admissions to the Lunatic Asylum, four males and four females. The daily average number of patients was 18. There are four nurses employed in attendance on patients. Three were discharged cured, two were relieved and discharged, five died, of whom one was dying when admitted. Three persons were restrained by seclusion under lock and key, during the year. This restraint was resorted to 23 times and straps were used once. The longest period for which a patient was locked in was four days.

29. The Lunatic Asylum for males occupies the best site in the town of Nassau. The rooms of the old ward are rather dark, but a new building with four rooms has been erected for violent patients which leaves nothing to be desired.

BAHAMAS

Attached to the New Providence Asylum is a public dispensary for out-patients. The number of patients who attended in 1885 was 2,519, and the number of prescriptions compounded was 7,660. The large increase in the number of applicants for gratuitous distribution of medicines, and gratuitous attendance at the dispensary has engaged the attention of the Legislature, and a select committee has been appointed to consider the question, with a view of checking the growing evil.

Post Office.

30. The amount of Post Office revenue was 2,662*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* The net amount paid into public Treasury was 2,453*l.* 2*s.* The amount for which money orders were issued was 907*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, on which the premium received was 11*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*

The money orders issued in the United Kingdom amounted to 208*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, on which the premium was 2*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

The number of letters received was 32,785, and of other articles 59,992. Of letters despatched there were 35,832, and of other articles 7,617. The rates of postage to countries of the International Postal Union are as follows:—

	d.
On letters, per half ounce rate - - -	4
,, newspapers, per four ounce (single) -	1
,, books, &c., per two ounces - - -	1

Letters for countries beyond Suez, viâ Brindisi, are charged an extra postage of 1*d.*

The registration fee on letters is 2*d.* Return receipts can be obtained for 2½*d.*

The administration of the Bahamas is not authorised to return letters of the International Post Service. Letters once posted belong to the addressee, to whom they must be delivered.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) HENRY A. BLAKE,
The Earl Granville, K.G., Governor.
Colonial Office.

GRENADA.

No. 8.

Governor W. J. SENDALL, to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

MY LORD, Grenada, March 5, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book relating to the Colony of Grenada for the year 1885, together with the Colonial Secretary's report thereon.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) WALTER J. SENDALL.
Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE COLONY OF GRENADA FOR THE YEAR 1885.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

The Custom duties show a total of 20,037*l.* as against 24,843*l.* for the year 1884, being a decrease of 4,800*l.*

2. The cause of this decrease is principally due to the reduction of the ad valorem duties from 10 to 5 per cent.

3. In Excise there is also a falling off of about 200*l.*, caused partly by the increased importation of spirituous liquors, and the decrease in the production of native rum.

4. Licenses show a diminution of somewhat over 600*l.* caused by the exemption of animals under three years of age of those kept for breeding purposes, and of those used only for agricultural purposes.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. On the 1st January 1885, the available balance to credit of the Colony was, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
General fund - - -	7,437	3	2
Special funds - - -	7,443	6	3

GRENADA.

6. The revenue of the Colony collected during the year 1885 was, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
General fund - - -	42,941	13	7
Special fund - - -	2,203	9	3

7. And the expenditure during the same period was, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
General fund - - -	45,150	11	11
*Special funds - - -	6,844	8	4

8. Leaving the following credit balance at 31st December:—

	£	s.	d.
General fund - - -	5,228	4	10
Special fund - - -	3,802	7	2

9. The following statement shows the financial position of the Colony on the 1st January 1886:—

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Cash balance in the Treasurer's hands - - - -	11,319	18	11	Due to Immigration Fund -	7,345	2	3
Cash and Bills in hands of Crown Agents - - - -	3,580	17	9	„ St. George's Town Fund	260	2	0
Loan to Tobago - - -	1,000	0	0	„ Grenville Harbour Fund	278	17	6
Charges on ditto - - -	5	10	2	„ Police Reward Fund -	65	10	8
Amounts due from out islands, for proportion of Governor's salary and office expenses -	366	10	11	„ Streets Fund - -	132	14	9
For telegrams - - -	28	7	4½	„ Governor's Office Fund -	20	0	0
For maintenance of lunatics -	103	7	4	„ Savings Bank - -	2,570	4	8
				„ Orders on Crown Agents unexecuted - -	335	0	8
				Surplus Assets - - -	5,396	19	11½
Total - - -	16,404	12	5½	Total - - -	16,404	12	5½

10. It will be observed that the revenue of the year under report is considerably less than that of 1884, whilst the expenditure remains nearly the same.

11. In addition to the causes of the decrease of the revenue noted under the head of "Taxes and Duties" may be mentioned the item "Rents," a portion of which heretofore carried to credit of general revenue has this year been transferred to credit of St. George's Town Fund.

12. Under the head of "Sales" also a much larger amount was realized by the sale of escheated properties in past than in the present year.

13. In 1884 also there was carried to credit of general revenue from suppressed funds over 1,250*l.*

Public Debt.

14. The debt of the Colony was further reduced by the payment to Mr. F. Marrast of 1,000*l.*, which leaves a balance due to him of 3,000*l.*

15. The loan from Mr. McPhail remains the same as it was at the close of 1884, namely, 1,000*l.*

* From this expenditure was defrayed, on account of Immigration Fund, the expense of introducing immigrants 2,190*l.* 14*s.*; instalment of loan to Mr. F. Marrast 1,000*l.*; and 1,000*l.* loan to Tobago; to meet which a part of the deposits, 2,500*l.*, was withdrawn.

Public Works.

16. The sum of 1,128*l.* has been spent in the general repairs of the various public buildings throughout the Colony.

17. A sum of 1,900*l.* was expended in forwarding the building of the new Court House at Grenville; 192*l.* was expended on ponds and wells in the Island of Carriacou; 150*l.* in establishing telephonic communication between Government House and various public offices and the gaol at Richmond Hill; and the remainder of the sum of 3,757*l.* was spent on various minor public works.

18. On roads and bridges the sum of 5,864*l.* were disbursed. Of this sum 1,044*l.* was taken for two iron bridges and other materials for the proposed road across the island between "Charlotte Town" and "Grenville."

19. For the construction of roads, upkeep, and working of the stone crusher 246*l.* was spent; whilst the sum of 4,574*l.* was used for the general repairs of the roads of the Colony, including the maintenance, &c. of mules and carts.

Legislation.

20. The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year 1885:—

(1.) An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Colony of Grenada for the year 1885.

(2.) An Ordinance to provide for the compensation of the families of persons killed by accidents, and to extend and regulate the liability of employers to make compensation for personal injuries suffered by workmen in their service.

(3.) An Ordinance to legalize the expenditure of certain sums of money paid from the general revenue for the service of the year 1884, in addition to the sums already sanctioned under the Appropriation Ordinance, 1884.

(4.) An Ordinance to unite into one fund the several special funds known as the St. George's Water Supply Fund and the St. George's Harbour Fund, and to regulate the management thereof.

(5.) An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the markets of this Colony.

(6.) An Ordinance to authorise a loan of 500*l.* from the general revenue of the Colony to the St. George's Town Fund for the purpose of erecting sheds in the market place of the said town.

(7.) An Ordinance to ascertain and fix the boundaries of the several towns of this island.

(8.) An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the Post Office.

(9.) An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the police.

(10.) An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Colony of Grenada for the year 1886.

(11.) An Ordinance to authorise the Governor in Executive Council to raise a loan for the purpose of various permanent public works, and for the construction of roads in this Colony. This Ordinance will not come into force until Her Majesty's pleasure is known.

(12.) An Ordinance to amend the law respecting defamatory words and libels.

(13.) An Ordinance to suspend the levying of all export duties during the year 1886.

Councils.

21. Under Her Majesty's warrant, dated 29th October 1885, Mr. Charles Macaulay Browne, a member of the Legislative Council, was appointed to be a member of the Executive Council.

Civil Establishment.

22. The following are the changes which have occurred in the fixed establishment :—

23. Mr. Edward Labord, C.M.G., left the Colony on the 27th May to assume his new office of Administrator of St. Lucia, and Captain Maling administered the Government until the 2nd June ; on that date the Island of Barbados was severed from the Government of the Windward Islands, and under New Letters Patent, dated 17th March 1885, the office was constituted of Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, comprising the Islands of Grenada, St. Vincent, Tobago, St. Lucia, and their Dependencies, of which group His Excellency Walter Joseph Sendall, Esquire, was appointed Governor, with head-quarters at Grenada.

24. During the temporary absence of His Excellency at St. Vincent, from 28th June to 1st July, Captain Maling again administered the Government.

25. Mr. H. R. Pipon Schooles, acting for the Colonial Secretary while he was absent on vacation leave from 28th July to the 23rd October, administered the Government from 12th August to 1st September, and again from 25th September to 4th October, his Excellency having left Grenada on short visits to the other Islands in his Government.

26. The suspension of Mr. Charles Risk from his office as Road Surveyor was confirmed by the Secretary of State. Mr. A. Codé, from the Public Works Department of St. Lucia, was placed in charge of the Works Department in Grenada from 8th January to 28th June; Mr. D. Ferguson was appointed to be temporarily in charge of that Department from 4th July to 23rd October, when he was relieved by Captain R. Jukes Hughes, R.N., who continued in charge until the arrival, on the 5th December, of Mr. Charles Messervy, who was appointed to the newly created office of Director of Public Works.

27. Mr. Edward Drayton, who was provisionally appointed Provost Marshal, arrived in Grenada on 1st April, and took the oaths of office.

28. Mr. M. H. D. Beresford was appointed to act as Clerk of Councils on the 28th January vice Mr. C. Falconer Anton, who was promoted to a magistracy in St. Lucia.

29. Mr. John Griffith was appointed Postmaster in succession to Mr. James Anton, who retired on a pension, and Mr. B. J. Gun Munro, a Revenue Officer, was promoted to be Treasury Accountant in Mr. Griffith's place.

30. Mr. R. T. Wright, who had been acting as Inspector of Police and Protector of Immigrants since 28th April 1884, was confirmed in the former appointment by the Secretary of State vice Mr. Engledow who resigned, and Captain R. Jukes Hughes, R.N., was appointed Acting Protector of Immigrants.

31. Mr. John Semper, who had been acting as Auditor since 2nd May 1883, was confirmed in the appointment by the Secretary of State.

32. The death of Dr. Cantin, Medical Officer of District No. caused a vacancy in the Medical Staff. Dr. Haddon, House Surgeon of the Colony Hospital, was appointed to the vacancy. No appointment has been made of House Surgeon.

33. Mr. Otway, the Police Magistrate of the Western District, was on leave from 1st January to 31st March; his duties were performed by Mr. W. E. Haynes the Revenue Officer of St. Andrew's. On Mr. Otway resuming his duties, Mr. Haynes obtained leave of absence and remained away until the close of the year. During this period Mr. Alfred Webster, the Revenue Officer of St. Patrick's acted for Mr. Haynes and Mr. H. H. Joudon, Excise Officer of St. Andrew's, discharged the duties of Revenue Officer of St. Patrick's.

34. Mr. E. H. Moore, from the Customs Department of St. Vincent, was appointed Excise and Revenue Officer of St. George and St. David; and Mr. J. H. A. Berkeley was appointed a Revenue Officer at St. George.

Securities of Public Officers.

35. The bonds given by the several Public Officers required to do so by law are in due form and the names of the several securities on behalf of these Public Officers are those of men good and sufficient for the amounts for which they are respectively bound.

Pensions and Gratuities.

36. To the Pension list the names of Mr. James Anton, late Postmaster, and Mr. G. L. De Pradines, late Gaoler, were added. The former receiving 80*l.* per annum and the latter 60*l.* per annum.

GRENADA.

37. The list on the other hand was relieved by 288*l.* 12*s.* 0*d.* by the death of the Rev. J. A. Anton.

38. A gratuity of 300*l.* was paid to Mrs. Henry Sharpe, the widow of the late Provost Marshal.

Registration.

39. The estimated population on the 31st December 1884 from the Registration Returns was 45,495. The net increase during the year 1885 was 929, making the estimated population on 31st December 1885 46,424. This includes 172 East Indian immigrants who arrived during the early part of the year.

40. The number of births recorded was 1,965 and deaths 1,208.

41. The natural increase in the population, therefore, was 757, equal to 1·66 per cent.

42. The death rate for the year was 2·60.

43. There were 227 marriages and 1,940 baptisms solemnized in the year.

44. The proportion of the sexes to the population is as follows, viz. :—

109·51 females to 100 males; or
91·32 males to 100 females.

Savings Bank.

45. I am happy to state that the Savings Bank is gaining a firmer hold on the confidence of the people, as will be shown by the fact that, notwithstanding the heavy drafts made on it during the months of June, July, September, and November, the amount on the 31st December last at deposit was 2,570, showing an increase over that of 31st December 1884 of nearly 400*l.*

46. The number of new accounts opened with this bank during 1885 was 81, and the number of accounts at present in existence is 163.

47. Of the amount of deposits above noted, the sum of 2,000*l.* is placed at interest at the rate of 3 per cent. at the Colonial Bank.

Education.

48. The school returns to 31st December 1885 show the average number of scholars on the roll during the year have been 3,929, with a number on books at end of year of 3,321, and an average attendance of 1,805. This is not a satisfactory average, and I am informed by the Inspector of Schools that the falling off in the attendance during the last half year is owing to the want of means in the parents to provide the clothes and school fees to enable their children to attend, and that this has arisen from the general depression which has existed during the last six months of the year. This was particularly the case in the Island of Carriacou, where the average attendance during the last three months of 1885, as compared with the same period of 1884, shows a decrease of 57 per cent. and the school fees a decrease of 55 per cent.

49. The assisted denominational schools with the numbers in attendance at the close of the year were as follows:—

Anglican, 9, with a number on roll of 1,012, and an average attendance of 589.

Roman Catholics, 9, with a number on roll of 1,302, and an average attendance of 729.

Wesleyans, 5, with a roll of 750, and an average attendance of 323.

50. These schools are in point of fact entirely supported by the Government; the managers doing little else than paying an occasional visit to them, and certifying the teachers' monthly returns.

51. Though supplied with books and other school materials at cost price, I am told by the Inspector of Schools that only three or four requisitions for these articles have been sent in during the last two years, and these were small orders totally inadequate to meet the requirements of the schools.

52. Grants of money in some cases sufficient to meet the cost have been made by the Board of Education to the managers to enable them to repair or build their school houses and necessary furniture, such as desks, presses, black boards, and easels, &c., were supplied in addition, so that for all intents and purposes these schools might have been under the sole control of the Board of Education.

53. The Government school opened at Birch Grove in September 1884 continues to do well.

54. On the 31st December there were 163 scholars on the roll, with an average attendance of 96, and the fees amounted to 34*l.*

55. In June last a second school under the Board of Education was opened at a place called "Concord," situated about halfway between St. George's and Charlotte Town, and where the need of a school has long been felt. The average attendance since it has been open has been 67 from an average roll of 106, and the fees collected amounted to nearly 14*l.*

56. The school fees collected during the year amounted to 478*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, or about 79½ per cent. of the children in average attendance paid their fees regularly in all of the schools.

57. It is the intention of the Board of Education to start similar Government schools during the present year, and from the numbers of children in and around the selected localities there is every prospect they will be well attended.

Imports and Exports.

58. The total value of imports for the year under report was 138,105*l.* as against 153,265*l.* in 1884, showing a decrease in value of 15,160*l.* This may be attributable to several causes, amongst which may be mentioned, first, the great diminution of the sugar industry, which industry employed a far larger amount of labour, and directly consumed a larger amount of imported goods than does the cocoa industry; secondly, to the lateness of this year's cocoa crop, attributable to the dry weather

GRENADA.

prevalent throughout the year; and, again, to the fact that cocoa planters as a class are generally unable at present to obtain free advances from the merchants, who are more anxious to call in their advances already made on cocoa properties than to increase them.

59. The declared value of the exports this year is 178,721*l.* as compared with 213,118*l.* for the year 1884.

60. The sugar exported for 1885 was 16,983 cwt. as against 36,790 cwt. in 1884, being a decease of considerably more than one half, owing to the unremunrative prices obtained for this staple.

61. Cocoa also shows a decrease as compared with last year's exports of 6,110 cwt., a deficiency owing to the lateness of the crop alluded to above.

62. It further appears from the returns that, in 1884, there was exported 31,621 gallons of rum, whilst in 1885 there were but 7,086 gallons exported. Rum being one of the minor products of the cane industry is influenced by the same causes which influence the production of cane sugar.

63. Of spices there were exported, in 1884, 86,240 lbs., while in 1885 there was exported 110,768 lbs.

Shipping.

64. The number of vessels, exclusive of vessels trading coast-wise, entered at the several ports of the Colony during the year was 590, with an aggregate tonnage of 143,248 tons.

65. These figures show an increase over 1884 of 134 vessels and 1,500 tons.

66. The number that cleared out from the Colony was 568 vessels of a tonnage of 107,079 tons, as against 442 vessels with a tonnage of 116,760 tons in the previous year.

67. It will be observed that while the number of vessels that cleared was greater by 126 vessels in 1885 than in 1884, yet the actual carrying capacity was considerably smaller, the difference being 9,681 tons.

Prisons.

68. In these Institutions a marked change for the better has taken place. New rules and regulations were brought into operation on the 19th August last, and the discipline of the prisons is rigidly enforced.

69. There were in all 221 prisoners commited to prison, 176 males and 45 females, being 31 more than in the preceding year. Out of these, 168 were committed for penal imprisonment, 135 males and 33 females, being 26 more than in 1884. Only 28, however, of these convictions were from the Supreme Court.

70. The daily average number in the male prison was 42, and in the female prison 8.

71. The highest number of males in any one day in gaol was 66, the lowest 34, and of females, the highest 12 and the lowest 4.

72. The cost for maintenance of prisoners, both male and female, for the year was 23*l.* 7*s.* $3\frac{3}{10}$*d.* per head per annum, or 1*s.* $3\frac{1}{4}$*d.* per head per day.

73. As regards the sanitary condition of the male prison at Richmond Hill, the medical officer in charge reports that dysentery and diarrhœa prevailed during the year to a much greater extent than in any other previous year since he has had charge of it. Why such diseases should be so prominent in a building built upon a dry site, cells well ventilated, water supply free from any impurity, and an excellent sanitary standard maintained at all times, is difficult to understand.

Criminal Statistics.

74. The decrease of crime generally during the past year is marked; but I regret to say there were 31 convictions for praedial larceny as against 18 in the preceding year, 29 in 1883, and 14 in 1882.

75. The number of cases reported to the police was 1,584, and the number of persons apprehended and summoned before the magistrates 1,554, as against 1,728 in 1884.

76. Fifty-six cases for indictable offences were sent on for trial to the Supreme Court, and convictions were obtained in 28 of these cases.

77. The number of acquittals of persons tried in the inferior courts were 508 and in the Supreme Court 18.

HOSPITALS.

Colony Hospital.

78. During the year 353 patients were admitted, of whom 259 were males and 94 females. At the commencement of the year there were in this Institution 27 males and 14 females, making a total under treatment of 394 patients. Of these, 267 were cured, 52 relieved, 27 died, and there remained on 31st December 48 patients, namely, 31 males and 17 females.

79. The average cost of maintenance per head was 22*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*

80. The daily average in the hospital was 52.

Yaws Hospital.

81. In the Yaws Hospital there were at the beginning of the year 60 patients, 33 males and 27 females; and 143 males and 100 females were admitted during the year. The daily average was 61. The total number discharged cured was 249, and none died.

St. Andrew's Hospital.

82. There were 146 patients under treatment, 121 males and 25 females. The daily average was 14·5. The number discharged cured was 113, and 3 died.

St. John's Hospital.

83. In this Institution the total number under treatment during the year was 141, namely, 110 males and 40 females, the daily average being 9·7. 106 patients were discharged cured, and 13 died.

Lunatic Asylum.

84. On the 1st January 1885 there were in this asylum 67 inmates, 28 males, 39 females.

85. The admissions during the year were 18, namely, 10 males, 8 females. Total number treated during the year 85. Of these 8 were discharged and 9 died.

86. The death rate gives a per-centage of 10·4 on the total number under treatment.

87. The daily average number was 69, and the cost of maintenance per head averaged 19*l.* 10*s.* 4½*d.*

88. The causes of death were as follows:—

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Heart disease	1	—	1
Ascitis	1	—	1
Enteric fever	1	—	1
Exhaustion	—	2	2
Diarrhœa	—	1	1
Epilepsy	1	—	1
Paralysis		—	1
Failure of heart's action		1	1
	5	4	9

Poorhouse.

89. At the end of 1884 there were at this Institution 47 inmates, viz., 27 males and 20 females; and during the year 1885 there were 30 admissions, viz., 13 males and 17 females.

90. Sixteen deaths occurred, 8 males and 8 females, the same number as last year.

91. The number discharged from the Institution was 14, and the returns show the admission of 9 in excess of the preceding year.

92. The following table will show the causes of death:—

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Paralysis	2	2	4
Heart disease	1	—	1
Diarrhœa	1	3	4
Senile debility	2	1	3
Scrofula	—	1	1
Epilepsy	1	—	1
Phthisis	—	1	1
Apoplexy	1	—	1
	8	8	16

93. Dr. Macleod, the medical officer in charge of the poorhouse, attributes this apparent large mortality among the inmates to the class of persons admitted into the Institution, many of whom he says were relegated from the Colony Hospital suffering from incurable chronic diseases, and senile debility. Some of the inmates admitted died after a short residence, showing the hopeless state they were in when admitted.

Immigration.

94. On the 10th January the ship "Poonah" from Calcutta arrived here with 172 immigrants. Out of this number, 166 are under indenture.

95. There have been no births since their arrival, while their decrease from deaths was 4·05 per cent., 1·73 of this being infants.

96. The conduct of these immigrants has been, on the whole, good. There were nine cases against them under the Immigration Ordinance, six of which were sustained. Also out of five cases under criminal law, in three cases convictions were obtained.

97. The immigrants may be said to be doing well, and the relations between the employer and immigrants are harmonious.

General Remarks.

98. Although no very great forward movement has marked the year 1885, still the Island has continued to progress in a satisfactory manner.

99. The depression which existed during the latter part of the year, owing to the lateness of the cocoa crop, our chief staple product, was but temporary, and has given way to the activity consequent on the reaping of a fair though late average crop.

100. The number of deaths during the year is larger than that during any year since 1878. This comparatively large mortality has been no doubt caused by the excessive heat and extreme dryness of the weather.

101. The Island of Carriacou, owing to local causes, the chief of which is the want of water, has suffered sadly from the heat and drought, and has had to be helped from the grant for charitable allowances far beyond the usual ratio.

IRVIN C. MALING.

Grenada, 1st March 1886.

Tobago.

TOBAGO.

No. 9.

Governor W. J. Sendall to the Right Hon. the Earl Granville, K.G.

My Lord, Grenada, March 31, 1886.

I have the honour to transmit Administrator Llewelyn's Report on the Blue Book of Tobago for the year 1885.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Walter J. Sendall.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Blue Book Report, 1885.

Taxes, Duties, Fees, &c.

In October, owing to the very exceptional and embarrassed state of the public finances, an Ordinance was passed imposing an additional 20 per cent. on the import tariff.

2. The fees in the Supreme Court were entirely revised.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue of the year, which was estimated to yield 13,645*l.*, only brought in 10,825*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, being 545*l.* less than in the previous year and 25 per cent. less than the average of a few years ago.

4. The expenditure was set down at 13,532*l.*, but only 12,031*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.* was spent, being 1,450*l.* less than in the previous year. Thus although the revenue fell off so considerably the economy exercised in the expenditure helped to lessen what would otherwise have been a very large deficit.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The deficit for the year 1884 was -	1,025	7	9
The deficit for the year 1885 was -	1,205	10	3
Total on 31st December 1885 -	2,230	18	0

Below will be found a comparative table of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years, and it will be observed that under both heads the figures are lower than in any previous year.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1881 - - - -	16,830 8 2	14,483 10 3
1882 - - - -	13,661 7 11	12,610 1 10
1883 - - - -	14,175 9 11	14,223 9 8
1884 - - - -	11,370 11 8	13,481 18 0
1885 - - - -	10,825 13 9	12,031 4 0

5. The different items of revenue call for no special comment, and the only noteworthy items of expenditure are a few special grants, comprising the following :—

	£	s.	d.
Proportion payable towards the expenses of Mr. Neville Lubbock's mission to Washington, U.S. - -	8	16	4
Travelling and local expenses of Mr. Prestoe, Government Botanist, Trinidad - - - -	11	17	0
The Hon. John McKillop for services on Excise Commission - -	12	0	0
In aid of expenses to secure a representation of the Colony's exhibits at the local and British Guiana Exhibitions - - - -	45	0	0
Secretary to Metaire Commission -	10	0	0
Proportion of salary of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief - -	116	10	11
	204	4	3

Local Revenues.

6. There are no municipal or local revenues of any kind in the Colony.

Public Debt.

7. Owing to the depressed state of the finances a loan of a thousand pounds was kindly made by the Government of Grenada to the Public Treasury here, payable in two years, with interest at 5 per cent.

TOBAGO.

Military Expenditure.

8. The only expense incurred under this head was a contribution of 82*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* towards a volunteer corps.

One company of this corps, the Scarborough, had for some time been effete, and the other company was disbanded in October mainly on the grounds of economy.

Public Works.

9. The expenditure on works and roads only amounted to 624*l.*, and was restricted almost entirely to repairs. The only new work was an outlay of 73*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* in sinking wells in the Leeward district, which at all times is badly supplied with water, and became especially so during the long drought that prevailed throughout the year.

Legislation.

10. Fifteen Ordinances were passed during the year, the principal being the Customs Consolidation Ordinance, and Ordinances for the "protection of wild birds;" "preservation of turtle," by making a close season; and for "the gradual with-"drawal of State aid from the several churches." This last Ordinance was rendered necessary from the serious decrease in the public revenue, and from the fact that the concurrent endowment system had, when established 12 years ago, been considered as a preliminary to the entire withdrawal of all State aid, which will now be effected in June 1889.

Councils.

11. Amongst the unofficial members of the Executive Council Mr. S. B. Isaacs was on leave of absence from June to the end of the year, his place being filled by the temporary appointment of Mr. John McKillop.

12. In the Legislative Council Mr. Isaacs was absent from June till the end of the year, his place being filled by Mr. Ebenezer Henderson, who, on the death of Mr. James McCall in the month of November, was permanently appointed an unofficial member.

Civil Establishments.

13. Mr. John W. Carrington, who had been acting as Administrator since May 1883, left the Colony in June, and from that date until the arrival in September of Mr. R. B. Llewelyn, who had been appointed Administrator under the new Government of the Windward group, the office of Administrator was temporarily filled by Mr. L. G. Hay, treasurer of the Colony, and Mr. G. W. Gordon, Auditor, acted as Treasurer.

14. At the end of the year several minor temporary and provisional appointments were determined, and preparations made for retrenchment and reorganisation in all the Public Departments which is now being carried out.

Vital Statistics.

15. During the year 753 births, 78 marriages, and 426 deaths were recorded; figures which show an increase in the number of births, a large decrease in the number of deaths, and a small decrease in the number of marriages on those of the previous year.

16. A dry season is no doubt the healthiest, but the severity of the drought and the scarcity of ground provisions has caused the death rate to be 22 per 1,000.

17. Allowing for the increase in population the number of inhabitants in the Colony at the end of the year should be 19,363.

Ecclesiastical.

18. No change took place in the amount granted by the Government to the several religious denominations, but an Ordinance was passed for gradually withdrawing the State aid now given.

Education.

19. The following tables show the position occupied by the schools maintained here by the different religious denominations in the Colony:—

Denomination.	1883.			1884.			1885.		
	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Government Grant.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Government Grant.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Government Grant.
			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Anglican -	9	824	239 4 0	9	858	314 8 11	9	726	334 8 0
Moravian -	6	733	141 0 0	6	717	184 14 0	6	587	198 18 0
Wesleyan -	6	605	169 16 0	6	567	225 3 4	6	579	212 7 0
Total -	21	2,162	550 0 0	21	2,142	724 6 3	21	1,892	745 13 0

20. The Government grant of 745*l.* 13*s.* was 21*l.* more than in the previous year, and is 200*l.* above that made in previous years up to 1884.

21. There is no Ordinance here providing for any system of education, but the question will, I hope, be shortly dealt with and provision made for efficient inspection, a requirement which I fear has hitherto been very imperfectly performed from want of available qualified persons competent to undertake such special duties.

Imports and Exports.

22. The value of the imports and exports both show a further falling off, especially the latter, which decreased from an average value of 45,613*l.* for the three years 1882–4 to 38,436*l.* in 1885; and in the year 1881 the value was 83,583*l.*

Table of Imports and Exports.

Year.	Imports.				Exports.			
	United Kingdom.	British West Indies.	Foreign Countries.	Totals.	United Kingdom.	British West Indies.	Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1881 -	33,051	26,205	325	59,582	76,253	6,934	396	83,583
1882 -	24,375	22,531	20	46,927	41,993	5,742	450	48,186
1883 -	25,038	21,631	332	47,001	37,089	5,173	5,774	48,036
1884 -	12,946	20,668	42	33,656	26,080	3,218	12,320	41,618
1885 -	16,334	14,158	263	30,755	26,413	6,201	5,822	38,436

Year.	Horned Cattle.	Cocoa.	Cocoanuts.	Fowls.	Goats.	Hides.	Horses.	Lime Juice.	Logwood.	Molasses.	Pigs.	Rum.	Sheep.	Sugar.	Wood, fuel.
	Heads.	Bags.	No.	Dozens.	No.	No.	No.	Puns.	Tons.	Puns.	No.	Puns.	No.	Cwts.	Cords.
1881 -	110	14	893,041	185	274	200	13	11	31	969	139	214	4	72,555	149
1882 -	131	60	813,545	216	355	156	19	31	18	657	138	204	28	50,358	561
1883 -	131	40	720,609	148	273	192	29	14	13	887	72	100	14	50,853½	500
1884 -	98	75	850,584	95	253	223	23	14	3	1,108	43	276½	1	75,394	552
1885 -	377	59½	567,979	184	766	266	181	7	8	788	298	220	33	51,946	565
Total -	847	248½	3,845,758	828	1,921	1,037	265	77	73	4,409	690	1014½	80	301,106½	2,327
Average -	169	49	769,151	165	384	207	53	15	14	882	138	203	16	60,221	465

Shipping.

23. The following is a summary of the shipping returns of the Island:—

Year.	Entered.						Cleared.					
	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.		
	No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.
1883 -	48	53,584	2,085	103	5,776	489	34	34,525	1,069	89	5,091	431
1884 -	49	54,260	1,986	96	5,451	462	41	42 232	1,470	89	5,627	464
1885 -	49	52,696	1,996	140	5,260	599	39	38,712	1,236	144	5,375	630
Total -	146	160,540	6,067	339	16,487	1,550	114	115,469	3,775	322	16,093	1,525
Average	49	53,513	2,022	113	5,495	517	38	38,489	1,258	107	5,364	508

Agriculture.

24. The low price of sugar, the uncertainty as to what was to be done with the estates offered for sale in London on the 8th December by the West India Encumbered Estates Court, and the long and serious drought which prevailed throughout the year, all tended to depress the planters and retard agriculture.

25. Cocoa planting has been commenced by a few persons on a limited scale, and where attempted is doing well.

26. The Agricultural Society did its best to encourage in every way the advance of this new enterprise, but several causes prevented as much good being done as was anticipated, and I regret that I cannot report that much progress was made during the year.

Gaols and Prisoners.

27. The offices of gaoler, matron, turnkey, and chaplain all became vacant during the year, and were filled by temporary appointments during the remainder of the year.

28. A new set of rules, on the lines of the Saint Vincent Prison Rules, were formulated in September. I append the usual comparative table on the working of the gaol.

Year.	No. of Commitments.	Committed for Debt.	Committed for Custody for Trial, or for want of Securities.	Committed for Penal Imprisonment.	No. of Prisoners previously convicted.			Commitments for				Daily average in Prison.	Admissions to Hospital.	Daily average on Sick List.	No. of Deaths.
					Once.	Twice.	Thrice or more.	Five years or more.	More than one and less than five years.	More than three months and less than one year.	Three months or less.				
1883 - -	98	—	22	76	24	17	10	—	7	1	68	23·5	42	4·5	—
1884 - -	92	—	13	79	9	15	10	—	5	7	67	24·3	70	2·32	—
1885 - -	162	—	15	147	27	22	17	—	8	9	130	32·5	99	3·6	—
Total -	352	—	50	302	60	54	37	—	20	17	265	80·3	211	9·43	—
Average -	117	—	16	101	20	18	12	—	6	5	88	26·8	70	3·14	—

Criminal Statistics.

29. The offence of prædial larcecy increased considerably principally cane stealing, owing, I believe, to hunger and want caused by the excessive and protracted drought. No serious

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crime occurred, and the inhabitants are in general quiet and peaceable.

——	1883.	1884.	1885.	Total.	Average.
Number of cases before the magistrates -	1,043	782	909	2,734	911
Number of summary convictions.					
1. Offences against the person - -	163	261	150	574	191
2. Prædial larceny - - - -	11	25	42	78	26
3. Other offences against property - -	35	63	20	118	39
4. Other offences - - - -	239	433	251	923	308
Number of convictions in the Superior Courts.					
1. Offences against the person - -	3	10	2	15	5
2. Arson - - - -	—	—	2	2	1
3. Other offences against property - -	5	2	10	17	6
Number of persons acquitted.					
1. In the inferior courts - - -	116	89	101	306	102
2. In the Superior Court - - -	1	3	6	10	3

Hospital.

30. The daily average number of patients was 30·2, being 15 males and 15·2 females, a slight increase over the figures of previous years. The number of admissions was 130, and of deaths 24.

31. To build latrines, baths, dispensaries, and proper accommodation for the servants, with many other works required to make the institution a credit to the Colony, would cost far more money than the Island can possibly afford, especially at the present time.

Rainfall. Meteorological Observations.

32. The following table gives the rainfall for the year 1885.

Places.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.
Logwood Park - - -	2·28	0·91	1·03	0·45	2·27	3·34	5·76
Golden Grove - - - -	1·99	—	1·17	0·15	2·17	3·33	5·50
Babylon - - - -	2·56	0·75	1·25	0·70	1·68	4·68	3·26
Runnemede - - - -	1·86	1·74	1·25	0·46	0·55	4·36	6·08
Betsey's Hope - - -	2·05	1·97	1·60	0·52	2·55	3·92	7·29
Kenmore - - - -	4·05	2·86	3·16	1·86	3·25	3·83	8·34
Glamorgan - - - -	—	—	—	1·65	2·40	3·15	6·16
Florida - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	7·18
Goldsborough - - -	2·81	1·89	1·61	1·59	1·50	—	5·16
St. Mary's Parsonage - -	—	—	—	—	—	2·89	4·78

(*continued.*)

Places.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Logwood Park - - - -	2·21	4·04	3·62	2·11	5·91	33·93
Golden Grove - - - -	2·91	2·95	3·89	2·36	6·67	33 09
Babylon - - - -	2·62	0·70	2·72	4·13	4·36	29·41
Runnemede - - - -	1·98	6·12	3·37	3·42	4·85	36·04
Betsey's Hope - - - -	2·19	7·22	3·03	3·88	7·74	43·96
Kenmore - - - -	5·16	7·03	5·35	4·10	8·24	57·23
Glamorgan - - - -	3·25	3·79	3·75	2·85	6·16	33·16
Florida - - - - -	4·55	5·11	4·46	3·70	8·30	33·30
Goldsborough - - - -	—	—	—	3·31	—	17·87
St. Mary's Parsonage - - -	2·55	3·85	3·40	2·00	4·07	23·54

33. This against an average of 65 inches shows the terrible drought from which the Island has suffered.

34. Rivers, never known to be dry before, have been perfectly dry for months, and the scarcity of water has been severely felt by man and beast.

35. There is no set of meteorological instruments in the Colony, so I regret that I cannot give further meteorological observations, but I hope when the finances are a little more flourishing to purchase several complete sets of appliances for regularly registering such observations as are desired.

General Remarks.

36. In the early part of the year it was decided to separate this Island, with Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia, from Barbados, and form a new Windward group, with a Governor-in-Chief residing in Grenada.

37. This was done in the month of June, and Mr. Walter Joseph Sendall was appointed the first Governor-in-Chief of the new group.

38. The continued low price of sugar and the long and serious drought told singularly heavily against this Island with a sole export. Added to this no bid was made for the estates, comprising about a fifth of the whole Island, that were put up at auction in London in December by order of the West India Encumbered Estates Court, and the consequence of these several misfortunes has been a severe trial to all classes.

39. I am sorry that it is not in my power to write a more cheering account of this lovely little Island, but it seems inexplicable that capital locked up in England will not be invested in the sugar estates of Tobago at the low prices they were offered at in December.

40. Should no purchasers shortly be found for these estates it is feared they will be altogether abandoned, and it will then be many years before a more prosperous year, even than the very bad one of 1885, will occur to be reported on.

(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
Tobago, 22nd February 1886. Administrator.

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 10.

Governor W. J. SENDALL to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

St. Vincent, 20th March 1886.

FORWARDED.
The Right Hon. (Signed) WALTER J. SENDALL.
The Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c.

SIR, Government House, March 6, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to transmit my report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1885.

Taxes, Duties, Fees.

2. The only change under these heads was the addition of a scale of fees for medical practitioners at coroners' inquests, which was fixed by the Governor in Council under authority of the Coroners Ordinance, 1885."

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue of the year was 38,493*l.* The revenue of the previous year appears as 46,118*l.* but 3,195*l.*, of it cannot be said to have been revenue of the year, being the sum of a policy on a building that was destroyed by fire in 1884. The following table shows the comparative receipts in the two years :—

	In 1884.			In 1885.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	21,147	15	0	17,255	19	2
Excise	12,177	9	1	10,114	10	8
Licenses	2,001	5	0	1,881	18	9
Taxes	2,297	15	10	1,661	11	6
Fees of office	794	11	8	829	13	11
Fines and fees	1,636	16	10	1,292	7	11
Post office	421	19	10	548	14	6
Reimbursements in aid	4,711	6	6	4,257	12	5
Repayment of loans	200	0	0	—		
Interest	718	6	10	636	16	9
Miscellaneous	10	17	10	13	15	11
Total	46,118	4	5	38,493	1	6

4. The large decrease in the customs dues was caused by the scarcity of money consequent on the low prices that had for some time ruled in the sugar markets. The planters, not being able to make muscovado sugar with any hope of profit at these prices, had reduced their cultivation considerably, and in some places had ceased altogether to cultivate the cane. Artizans and labourers, and indeed managers and overseers of estates, not finding employment in the Colony, had begun to emigrate in the previous year, and continued to do so in numbers all through the year under report. To these causes must also be attributed the great decrease in the excise dues and in the taxes.

5. The expenditure in 1885 was 43,738*l.*, while that of 1884 was only 39,592*l.* But the former figures are greatly in excess of the expenditure proper to the year 1885, and the latter do not show the actual expenditure incurred in 1884, for only 11 months' expenses of the fixed establishment were brought to account in 1884, while in 1885, 13 months' expenditure was met in order to bring all transactions to a close within the financial year. In the account for 1885 there is also an item of 2,800*l.* under the head of "Miscellaneous," which was a transfer to another account. Making allowance, therefore, for this transfer and for the extra payments made for the previous year, the expenditure proper to 1885 did not exceed 38,000*l.* and was within the revenue of the year. The expenditure in each of the last two years is hereunder shown:—.

	In 1884.			In 1885.		
Fixed Establishments.	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil	4,482	11	8	5,105	14	1
Judicial	3,338	14	5	4,005	3	1
Police	2,469	2	3	2,871	7	10
Gaols	236	10	0	279	10	0
Ecclesiastical	1,288	7	9	1,612	4	8
Medical	1,963	16	2	2,299	8	8
Exclusive of Establishments.						
Civil	2,454	1	11	1,719	9	0
Judicial	308	7	4	307	9	6
Police	473	14	5	415	8	9
Gaols	586	19	7	752	6	6
Medical and charitable	5,386	12	5	6,907	10	3
Education	1,136	3	4	1,355	16	8
Immigration	3,144	0	0	1,942	19	2
Pensions	1,007	14	5	1,251	12	4
Drawbacks	144	2	0	139	10	4
Works and buildings	6,050	6	9	4,931	6	4
Rent	540	4	2	576	10	4
Loans and interest	2,116	0	6	2,100	0	0
Subsidies	1,050	4	1	1,511	3	11
Insurance	65	10	0	73	18	0
Miscellaneous	1,349	0	2	3,579	19	4
Total	39,592	3	4	43,738	8	9

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6. The following statement exhibits the financial position of the Colony at the close of the year 1885, the surplus assets being 12,491*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*:—

ASSETS.	£.	s.	d.	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Balance in current account	8,632	13	0	Balance due to Personal Accounts, viz.:—			
Balance of deficiency in accounts of late Acting Treasurers	659	11	3	St. Lucia Savings Bank current account	3,416	16	8
Imprests outstanding	63	19	6	St. Lucia Savings Bank invested in Government Loans (Barbados)	1,000	0	0
Amount at interest Colonial Bank on account General Revenue	7,000	0	0	Imperial Post Office Fund	272	15	10
Amount on account Police and Revenue Officers' Reward Fund	1,000	0	0	Castries Town Fund	411	15	1
Amount invested in Government Loans (Barbados), on account of St. Lucia Savings Bank	1,000	0	0	Towns and Villages Fund	1,203	0	6
Amount in hands of agents, Calcutta, on account Immigration Fund as per account sent out at close of season, 1884-1885	1,066	2	0	Police and Revenue Officers' Reward Fund, current account	274	4	11
Balance due by Military Property Fund	1,161	2	7	Ditto interest, Colonial Bank	1,000	0	0
Balance Casual Revenue of Crown	969	15	2	Suspense account	216	13	4
Balance Immigration Fund	443	18	11	Central Sugar Factory Fund	805	3	6
Balance due by Castries Harbour Improvement Fund	559	14	2	Immigration Fund, amount in hands of agents, Calcutta	1,066	2	0
Due by Imperial Government, being advances to Captain Orpen, R.E.	91	0	0	Amount overpaid by Crown agents to end of November	2,540	1	11
				Estimated amount of outstanding accounts for year 1885	50	0	0
Total above Assets	22,647	16	7	Total above Liabilities	12,256	13	9
Amount of loan to Castries Town Fund, payable in annual instalments of 333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* with interest at 4 per cent	5,000	0	0	Debentures issued under the authority of the Central Sugar Factory Ordinance, 1874, and undrawn	25,600	0	0
Shares in the St. Lucia Central Sugar Factory Company, Limited, to the amount of	31,300	0	0	Debentures issued under the authority of the Immigration Loan Ordinance 1878 and undrawn	8,600	0	0
				Surplus of Assets	12,491	2	10
Total	58,947	16	7	Total	58,947	16	7

Public Debt.

7. The debt of the Colony was at the close of the year 34,200*l.* Of this amount the sum of 25,600*l.* remained due upon the original debt of 30,000*l.*, incurred under authority of an Ordinance of 1874 with the object of taking shares in a company which was then being incorporated under the style of "The St. Lucia Central Sugar Factory Company, Limited," for establishing a factory in the Colony for the manufacture of crystallized sugar; the sum of 5,600*l.* remained due on a loan of 6,100*l.* taken up in 1878 in aid of immigration; and a further loan of 3,000*l.* was taken in the year under report for the same object.

8. These loans bear interest at 6 per cent. per annum, and their repayment is a charge on the general revenues of the Colony, an annual sum being appropriated for the payment of interest and to form a fund for their redemption.

Military Expenditure.

9. The military posts, lands, and buildings are vested in the Secretary of State for War, but since the troops were removed in 1886 the lands and buildings have been under the care and control of the local Government. No expenditure has been incurred by Great Britain for the maintenance of these posts and buildings since the removal of the troops.

10. In the fall of 1885 an officer of Royal Engineers, with assistants, arrived in the Colony to make surveys around the port of Castries, and to make reports to the Imperial Government touching fortifications and the extent and condition of the military buildings. The expenditure incurred by Great Britain in these surveys, as far as it is known to the local Government, was 91*l.*

11. A law for establishing a militia was passed in 1854, and an amending Ordinance in 1856; but no local forces are enrolled, and no expenses are incurred for militia purposes.

Public Works.

12. In general repairs to the public buildings the sum of 633*l.* was spent, and in the up-keep of the roads and bridges the sum of 3,945*l.* Considerable repairs, at a cost of 377*l.*, were effected to the buildings at Morue Fortuné, which belong to the Imperial Government, but which have been in the occupation of the local government for many years.

13. Preparations were begun for the rebuilding of the Colonial Hospital, which had been destroyed by fire early in 1884. A sum of 227*l.* was spent, principally in the purchase of some adjoining land to give an extended area for the new building.

14. A commencement was made in the works that are to be undertaken for improving the Castries Harbour. It is proposed to remove several shoals which now interfere with the passage of ships, to dredge the Harbour to a depth of 27 feet below low water, and to build concrete facings to the quays, alongside of which several large vessels may lie at the same time to discharge and receive cargo. These improvements will afford safe and commodious anchorage for a number of vessels, and will offer great facilities for the coaling of steamers.

Legislation.

15. Fourteen Ordinances became law during the year under report, the first that I need mention being "an Ordinance for the "protection of certain wild birds." It was found necessary to legislate for the protection of the birds of the Colony, in consequence of the indiscriminate destruction of them that had been going on to supply the demand for stuffed specimens for export. A law was accordingly brought into force prohibiting the killing or export of certain birds, and prohibiting the shooting of other kinds except in certain seasons of the year.

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16. The Ordinance "to raise a loan for the improvement of "the harbour of Castries" was the most important enactment in the year. By it a loan of 60,000*l.* is to be raised, by the issue of debentures in England and in the Colony, which is to be appropriated to the improvement of the Castries Harbour. The debentures are to bear interest at 4½ per cent., which interest is to be paid half yearly. After the lapse of five years from their issue, these debentures are to be redeemed, either by purchase in the open market, or by annual drawings at the option of the Crown Agents subject to the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies if issued in England, and if issued in this Colony at the option of the Treasurer, subject to the direction of the Governor.

17. Another very important Ordinance was that "to establish "a system of medical registration in this Colony." Hitherto any unlicensed or unauthorised person might pretend to practise medicine and to prescribe as a medical practitioner for persons weak enough to employ him. This law places such unauthorised person under heavy penalties if found presuming to practise medicine or surgery without being duly registered in the Colony. It authorises the Governor to appoint a medical board for the examination of the qualifications of every person desiring to practise medicine or surgery, and the board is required to issue its certificate to such person upon being satisfied of the genuineness of the qualifications exhibited and of the indentity of the person claiming to hold them. Every duly qualified medical practitioner is obliged to register his name and his qualifications. This is a valuable law for the protection of the people from charlatans and their mischievous practices, as well as to preserve the rights of those who are duly qualified to practise their profession.

18. A law to amend the law relating to coroners and inquests came into force in November of the year under report. This is a very valuable addition to the statute book; it defines the jurisdiction, duties, and liabilities of the coroners, the proceedings to be had at inquests, and the penalties that jurors and others may suffer for disobedience to the orders of the coroner.

Civil Establishments.

19. Mr. C. C. Knollys, the Colonial Secretary of Barbados, who had been administering the Government since the promotion in 1884 of Mr. Goldsworthy, C.M.G., to be Governor of British Honduras, was relieved and resumed his duties in Barbados upon the appointment as Administrator of Mr. Edward Laborde, C.M.G., in the month of May.

20. In the same month, under Letters Patent dated in March preceding, the island of Barbados was made a separate Government; and the islands of Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Tobago were formed under one general Government under a governor styled the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the

Windward Islands. To this command Her Majesty was pleased to appoint Walter Joseph Sendall, Esq., who assumed the administration of his Government on the 2nd of June, taking up his residence in Grenada, which island Her Majesty declared should be the seat of Government.

21. Mr. Garraway, who had been acting as Treasurer since the previous year, was confirmed in the office. Mr. E. E. Evelyn was appointed a Revenue Officer, and Mr. E. S. Blanchard was appointed clerk of the Magistrates' Court in the third district. Mr. Lynch was removed to a magistracy in the island of St. Vincent, and Mr. C. Falconer Anton was appointed provisionally in his stead.

22. Mr. F. St. A. Reece was appointed Postmaster in succession to Mrs. Richard, who retired on a pension. Mr. E. J. Auguste and Mr. Myers were appointed provisionally clerks in the office of the Prothonotary. Dr. Doyle was transferred to the medical staff in Demerara, and Dr. J. G. Williams, from St. Kitts, was appointed Colonial Assistant Surgeon in his place.

Pensions.

23. The Rev. H. T. Warlop was added to the list early in the year, but he died in the month of June. Another pensioner, St. Luce Douglas, died in the month of December. The list by these deaths was relieved in the annual sum of 28*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Population.

24. The births in the year, exclusive of still-births, numbered 1,651, and the deaths, exclusive of still-born, 951, giving a natural increase of 700. The still-births were 110. Excluding still-births the birth rate was 4·05 per cent., and the death rate 2·03.

25. Illegitimacy here, as in other West India islands, is very common, the illegitimate births in the past year having been 68·15 per cent.

26. The infant mortality is high and is above that of the neighbouring islands with which I am acquainted, having been 30·54 per cent. of the deaths in the last year.

27. I append a copy of the Registrar General's report which is very carefully prepared, and is interesting as exhibiting the comparative death rate between St. Lucia and other colonies, from which it will be found that this Colony is not the unhealthy place that it is commonly, but erroneously, supposed to be.

Savings Bank.

28. This was established in 1871, and the numbers making use of it yearly increase. At the end of 1884 there were 233 depositors with deposits to the amount of 2,851*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*; at the close of the last year there were 267 depositors with deposits to the amount of 4,416*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

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29. The funds are invested as follows:—1,000*l.* in Barbados Government Loans at 4 per cent., 2,000*l.* in New South Wales Inscribed Stock at 3½ per cent., and 1,000*l.* at interest in the Colonial Bank at 3 per cent.

30. In the year 1883 branch banks were opened in the towns of Soufrière and Vieux Fort, but these not being made use of were closed on 31st December last by order of the Governor in Council. It was found that persons residing in the country districts preferred to bring their savings to Castries for deposit in the principal branch.

Education.

31. The system in this Colony seems altogether defective, and as a natural consequence there is no apparent advance in primary education.

32. A grant of 1,150*l.* is made by the legislature for assisting in the education of the people. This amount is equally divided between the trustees of Lady Mico's Charity and the Roman Catholic clergy for the schools established by them. The trustees of Lady Mico's Charity supplement the Government grant by a contribution from their fund of 220*l.*, and they pay 20*l.* for the expenses of an annual inspection of their schools. They also provide school houses and residences for their teachers. The schools under the management of the Roman Catholic clergy are dependent on the Government grant, and are not assisted by any grants from other sources. School houses and residences in most instances are found by the clergy.

33. The unsatisfactory working of the system is illustrated by the following figures:—

Mico Schools.

Numbers attending in 1884 - -	1,308
„ „ 1885 - -	1,431
Increase in 1885 - -	123

Roman Catholic Schools.

Numbers attending in 1884 - -	1,589
„ „ 1885 - -	1,480
Decrease in 1885 - - -	109

so that in the course of the two years there is shown but an increase of 14 children in attendance in the schools of the Colony. The population of St. Lucia is 40,681, and the number of children attending the primary schools in the past year was 2,911.

Imports and Exports.

34. The value of the imported goods was 93,739*l.* The value of the goods from the United Kingdom was 41,857*l.*, that from British colonies 12,392*l.*, and from foreign countries 39,490*l.* In the previous year the value from the respective countries was 64,934*l.*, 11,350*l.*, and 70,176*l.*, making a total value of 146,640*l.*, and showing a decrease in the total value in the last year of 52,901*l.*

35. The annexed table exhibits the falling off in the principal articles, and points to the depression that was caused not only in agriculture but in every branch of business in consequence of the exceedingly low prices in the sugar markets.

Articles.	Value in 1884.			Value in 1885.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Ale, beer, porter (in wood)	1,278	6	11	461	7	8
Animals living, viz. :						
Horses	245	0	0	47	0	0
Mules	1,849	0	0	31	0	0
Biscuits, fancy	182	2	0	75	14	10
Beans and peas	949	8	11	724	17	1
Boots and shoes	3,527	16	0	3,373	15	5
Bricks	1,005	6	8	282	1	0
Candles, tallow	331	7	9	270	4	4
,, sperm	788	14	1	507	12	6
Carts	390	13	4	73	12	11
Cheese	546	0	5	304	5	5
Cordage and ropes	482	12	0	310	17	5
Coffee	1,117	16	0	613	14	6
Corks	228	19	8	79	4	4
Confectionery	195	19	5	77	7	7
Cottons, linens, and woollens	19,185	16	3	17,633	16	5
Cutlery	468	1	7	214	5	11
Earthenware	874	14	6	596	8	6
Fish, dried	8,910	6	4	7,595	6	0
Flour	11,142	14	8	8,990	4	4
Furniture	636	2	0	366	13	7
Glassware	664	11	8	317	7	2
Hats and bonnets	1,347	10	0	1,058	0	4
Hardware	4,948	5	0	1,267	12	8
Haberdashery	7,293	13	4	4,948	7	2
Jewelry	309	15	0	96	19	1
Lard	1,490	10	6	847	6	4
Leather	487	12	6	147	5	7
Lime, temper	334	0	4	68	18	1
,, building	302	19	8	191	15	4
Machinery	16,788	6	1	932	9	1
Machines, sewing	194	10	6	48	18	6
Meats, hams, tongues, and bacon	549	16	8	82	15	2
Matches	438	17	8	310	7	5
Manure, guano	4,052	16	8	1,398	16	8
Medicines	1,106	19	11	700	0	9
Nails	691	15	1	322	7	4
Oil, engine	415	2	4	196	6	8
Oil (other kinds)	2,866	3	9	2,186	10	9
Oilmeal	918	5	2	253	18	5
Perfumery	459	19	10	287	0	5
Railroad materials	1,370	0	0	—		
Spirits, gin, rum, and whiskey	834	15	8	408	19	11
Brandy	941	8	4	618	10	11

Articles.	Value in 1884.			Value in 1885.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Stationery - - - - -	579	4	0	208	6	0
Sugar - - - - -	709	5	11	252	14	5
Tobacco, manufactured - - -	367	16	8	97	13	1
„ unmanufactured - - -	1,910	12	10	1,405	16	8
„ cigars, and snuff - - -	220	17	6	111	11	0
Trunks - - - - - -	335	18	6	45	0	4
Wood hoops - - - - -	748	10	6	172	6	0
Wood lumber, white pine - - -	3,323	6	6	881	8	1
Pitch pine - - - - -	2,356	11	5	325	19	1
Wines - - - - -	2,657	18	3	2,448	14	11

36. The value of exported goods was 121,262*l.* Of this 118,536*l.* was the value of the exported products of the Colony. In the year previous the total value of the exports was 145,866*l.*, and the value of the exported products 143,564*l.*

37. In the table below is shown the value and direction of the principal products of the Colony exported in the years 1884 and 1885.

Articles.	Countries.	Value in 1884.			Value in 1885.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cocoa	United Kingdom - - -	5,393	5	0	3,840	0	0
	United States - - -	17	0	0	—		
	France - - - -	7,016	15	0	8,178	0	0
	Barbados - - - -	38	5	0	32	10	0
	French West Indies - -	—			58	15	0
		12,465	5	0	12,109	5	0
Hides	United Kingdom - - -	—			30	0	0
	United States - - -	20	8	4	43	2	0
	Barbados - - - -	8	6	8	—		
	French West Indies - -	353	2	6	200	12	0
		381	17	6	273	14	0
Logwood	United Kingdom - - -	272	0	0	140	0	0
	United States - - -	86	0	0	—		
	France - - - -	—			20	0	0
	French West Indies - -	76	0	0	—		
		434	0	0	160	0	0
Rum	United Kingdom - - -	—			585	14	6
	United States - - -	124	0	0	—		
	France - - - -	4	0	0	590	0	10
	Barbados - - - -	6	0	0	—		
	Colon - - - -	—			65	4	4
	French West Indies - -	786	0	0	29	12	8
	Spanish West Indies - -	—			22	8	0
		920	0	0	1,293	0	4

Articles.	Countries.	Value in 1884.	Value in 1885.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sugar (usine)	United Kingdom	17,300 0 0	36,580 10 4
	United States	10,600 0 0	3,410 8 8
	Grenada	—	203 13 8
	St. Vincent	—	16 16 8
	Antigua	—	8 8 4
	Dominica	—	3 7 4
		27,900 0 0	40,223 5 0
Sugar (muscovado)	United Kingdom	9,425 0 0	23,190 0 0
	United States	82,547 8 0	33,173 2 6
	French West Indies	12 7 0	3 2 6
		91,984 15 0	56,366 5 0
Sugar (refined)	Grenada	—	10 4 0
Molasses	United Kingdom	—	35 19 4
	French West Indies	8,397 10 0	6,320 16 4
		8,397 10 0	6,356 15 8

Shipping.

38. The sailing vessels that entered in the year were 224 in number and the steam vessels 199, the former having a total of 14,077 tons and the latter of 201,056 tons, making a gross total of 423 vessels and 215,133 tons entered.

39. The number of sailing vessels that cleared was 225 having 14,245 tons, and the number of steam vessels that cleared was 200 with 201,695 tons, making a gross total of 445 vessels and 215,940 tons cleared.

40. In 1884 the number of vessels of both kinds that entered was 408 with 211,200 gross tonnage; and the number that cleared was 402 vessels with 210,801 gross tonnage.

41. The increase in the number of vessels and tonnage in the year under report must be attributed to the greater number of steamers coming into port for the purpose of coaling, a trade that seems to be extending steadily.

Prisons.

42. There were 524 commitments to prison in 1885, of which 160 were for safe custody and 364 for penal imprisonment. In the previous year the numbers were respectively 381, 102, and 279. Of the 364 in the last year for penal imprisonment 37 had been committed once before, 30 twice, and 50 thrice or more. In the previous year the numbers were respectively 29, 27, and 13.

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43. The commitments in the last year were 143 in excess of the previous year, and for penal imprisonment 85 in excess. The number of old offenders recommitted was also greater, the number of 50 previously committed three or more times being unprecedentedly great.

44. The commitments for one year or more but less than five years were 21, for more than three months and less than one year 17, and for three months or less 326. In 1884 the numbers were respectively 22, 13, and 244.

45. The colonial surgeon reports the health of the prison to have been very satisfactory. Besides the 524 committed in the year, there were 59 remaining from the previous year, making 583 within the prison in the year, the daily average being 65·27. There were only 44 admissions to hospital, the daily average on the sick list being 2·55. Three deaths occurred, from bronchitis, from valvular disease, and from heart dropsy. One convict was executed for murder.

Criminal Statistics.

46. The criminal statistics show a diminution in the number of cases reported to the police, and slightly so in those apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates. Compared with 1884 there was in the last year a decrease of 107 in the number of convictions for offences against the person, and of seven in those against property other than praedial larceny, but there was an increase of 23 in the number of convictions for praedial larceny, leaving a total decrease in the year under report of 91 summary convictions.

47. The cases in the Superior Court were, however, more numerous in the last than in the previous year, namely, 49 as against 28. In the previous year there were 23 convictions, 15 for offences against the person and eight against property; in the last year there were 31 convictions, 17 for offences against the person, and 14 against property. Of the 15 convictions in 1884 for offences against the person, three were for manslaughter and two for attempt to murder; of the 17 convictions in 1885 against the person, one was for murder and one for manslaughter.

48. Looking to the comparative table for the last four years there is a considerable decrease in the number of cases reported, apprehended, or summoned, and also in the summary convictions; but the convictions in the Superior Court in the last year were unprecedented in number.

Hospitals.

49. The number of patients in the General Hospital, Castries, at the close of the year 1884 was 155, that is, 103 males and 52 females. The admissions in 1885 were 3,317, of whom 2,338 were males and 979 were females. There were, therefore, 3,472 patients under treatment in the past year, and the daily average was 159.

50. In the previous year 70 patients remained over from the former year, and there were 1,457 admissions, making a total of 1,527 patients under treatment in the year.

51. Of the 3,472 under treatment in the last year 3,081 were discharged "cured" and 22 "relieved." There were 30 deaths, 18 men and 12 women.

52. The death rate on the number treated was ·86 per cent., and on the bed rate 18 per cent. The death rate on the number treated in 1884 was 2 per cent.

53. The enormous increase of admissions in the past year was due chiefly to the weak and unhealthy condition of the coolies who were brought to the Colony at the end of the previous year in the "Bracadaile." I am informed they have proved to be the worst lot received in this Colony.

54. The figures above are in respect of the General Hospital in Castries. There are three district hospitals in which very many patients were received in the past year; but for which no returns have reached me. I shall hope that full information concerning these hospitals will be contained in the annual report of the colonial surgeon.

Lunatic Asylum.

55. There were 15 inmates at the close of the year 1885, six males and nine females. Eleven were admitted in the last year, making a total of 26 under treatment, 11 males and 15 females.

56. Seven patients were discharged in the year cured, two males and five females, and two females died, leaving nine males and eight females in the institution at the close of 1885.

57. There are five lunatics from this island in the asylum in Grenada.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD LABORDE.

His Excellency
Walter J. Sendall, Esquire,
Governor-in-Chief.

ST. LUCIA.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL ON THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, AND BURIALS, 1885.

General Register Office, Castries,
January 27, 1886.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the usual tabulated returns of the births, deaths, baptisms, marriages, and burials for the past year, and, with them, this, my seventeenth, annual report on the vital statistics of St. Lucia.

The year 1885 presents a considerable improvement on 1884, and offers, in the main, favourable comparison with the past years of registration. Its chief feature is a death rate lower than any previously recorded. The birth rate, which had fallen in 1884 to a figure until then unknown, rose during the year under report to 4·05 per cent., an increase of one half per cent. Though this increment has not brought our rate of increase to the average of the first 14 years of registration, we may nevertheless consider the improvement of 1885 on 1884 as affording us good reasons to expect a return to the normal condition of things when those of our people who still linger at the Isthmus of Panama will have regained their homes.

The average to which I have referred has been drawn from the figures furnished by the first 14 years of registration. During that period nothing interrupted the even course of our existence. We suffered from no epidemic; and no special inducements were offered to the strong and hearty amongst us to desert the Colony. But during the two years that immediately followed, namely, 1883 and 1884, the state of affairs underwent a change. A great exodus to the Isthmus of Panama had set in; and, for a long time, the flow of emigration continued unabated. The ratio of increase was, as a consequence, affected; and the rate of mortality rose by the return home, in shattered health, of many who had left the Colony to seek fortune and came back to die. The years 1883 and 1884 must, therefore, be rejected in instituting any comparisons: they do not correctly exhibit our progress, nor can they be taken as in any way indicating our sanitary condition.

With these preliminary remarks, I proceed to marshal the figures of the tabulated returns.

In 1885, inclusive of the still-born, 1,761 entries were made on the registers of births, and 1,061 deaths *from all causes* were returned. The natural incease was, consequently, 700, and this gain raised the population to a total of 41,381 souls on the 31st of December.

The parishes that contributed most to this addition were those of Soufriere, Choiseul, Laborie, Vieux-fort, and Gros Islet. The parishes of Micoud, Anse la Raye and Castries came next. Dennery's contribution was only 30.

There was during the year a preponderance of male births, the proportion being 109·14 males to every 100 females.

The legitimate births numbered 561 and the illegitimate 1,200. Legitimacy thus showed a weak proportion per centum of the total births of 31·85, whilst illegitimacy figured at 68·15.

The immorality of the Colony is apparently on the increase. But we live in the midst of a condition of things which must not be judged by a European standard, as I have already pointed out in more than one of my previous reports.*

Illegitimacy again forces itself upon our attention in relation to the still-born. During the year, 110 still-births were returned; of them 29 were legitimate and 81 illegitimate. It would thus appear that whilst illegitimacy was in respect of legitimacy, in the *total births*, as two to one, the illegitimate still-births numbered nearly *three* times the legitimate still-births.

The following table shows the births, deaths, and still-births since the commencement of registration in 1869, with their different rates per centum of the population :—

Years.	Population on 1st January of each year.	Births exclusive of Still-births.	Birth Rate.	Deaths exclusive of Still-births.	Death Rate.	Still-births.	Still-birth rate.
1869	30,275	1,271	4·19	746	2·46	88	6·92
1870	30,800	1,317	4·28	716	2·32	101	7·72
1871	31,401	1,379	4·39	801	2·55	100	7·25
1872	34,970	1,416	4·33	785	2·45	95	6·70
1873	32,601	1,400	4·29	829	2·54	119	8·50
1874	33,172	1,411	4·26	953	2·88	93	6·59
1875	33,630	1,428	4·25	837	2·49	91	6·37
1876	34,221	1,501	4·39	874	2·55	76	5·06
1877	34,848	1,491	4·28	865	2·48	84	5·36
1878	35,474	1,431	4·03	942	2·65	96	6·22
1879	36,543	1,494	4·09	1,008	2·76	93	6·22
1880	37,250	1,774	4·76	826	2·22	112	6·31
1881	38,265	1,585	4·14	877	2·30	98	6·18
1882	39,289	1,692	4·31	827	2·10	106	6·26
Average			4·28		2·48		6·55
1883	40,154	1,653	4·12	1,180	2·94	98	5·93
1884	40,532	1,461	3·60	1,312	3·23	95	6·50
1885	40,681	1,651	4·05	951	2·03	110	6.66

The death rate of 1885 was 2·03, a considerable reduction on the rates of the two previous years and on the average (2·48) struck between the years 1869 and 1882 (*vide* above table), during which period the lowest mortality rate was 2·10 in 1882.

* It may not be amiss to mention that the immorality of the West Indies is not the *actual immorality* of older and more advanced countries. In reporting on the vital statistics of the year 1869, I pointed out that "the majority of the labouring "population of this island live in a state which fulfils all the conditions of married "life, the bond of mutual interest supplying the place of a legal or religious com-"pact. . . . ." And I proceeded to show that these unions "so loosely formed "in the first instance, become cemented in course of time by the influences of chil-"dren and habit, and are ultimately sanctioned at the altar or on the death-bed."—Report for 1882.

In reproducing these statements I do not desire to be considered as in any way offering an apology for a state of things which, however it may be viewed, certainly presents very ugly features.

Let us hope that the spread of education will bring round the people to a sounder perception of what they owe to themselves and to society, and that their material improvement will remove obstacles in the way of marriage which are put off in the hope of better days coming. The popular mind is impressed with the idea that marriage is inseparable from a certain amount of pomp and feasting.

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It will not be inopportune that I should compare with our own the vital statistics of some of the colonies that have adopted a system of registration, as much disparaging assertions of the sanitary condition of this Island can be dispelled by the logic of figures.

I regret that a demand for exchange of annual statistical returns has not been generally responded to, as otherwise the comparisons would be fuller.

The following are comparative statements of the death rate here and at other colonies :—

Jamaica and St. Lucia.

1878	2·19	2·65
1879	2·33	2·76
1880	2·70	2·22
1881	2·60	2·30
1882	2·00	2.10
Average	2·36	2·40
1885		2·03

Grenada and St. Lucia.

1875	2·88	2·49
1876	3·40	2·55
1877	3·02	2·48
1878	3·16	2·68
1879	2·52	2·76
1880	2·32	2·22
1881	2·77	2·30
1882	2·21	2·10
Average	2·78	2·44
1885		2·03

St. Lucia, average death rate	1869–1882	2·48
death rate	1885	2·03
Mauritius death rate	1882	3·49
British Guiana do.	1883	3·02
Trinidad do.	1883	2·87
St. Kitts do.	1883	3·57
Antigua do.	1883	3·01
Bermuda do.	1883	2·65

From the above particulars we gather the important facts (1) that in mortality rate Jamaica and St. Lucia draw near each other, and (2) that every year between 1875 and 1882 (with a solitary exception) the St. Lucia death rate was under that of Grenada.

It would also appear that the St. Lucia mean death rate at the end of 1882 is also less than the rates of Mauritius and the other colonies in respect of which I have been able to obtain information.

Another fact worthy of mention is that Jamaica in 1882 had a death rate as low as 2·00 per cent. and that we closely matched it in 1885 with one of 2·03.

The unhealthiness of this climate is, therefore, a fiction, on which the foregoing figures will, I trust, act as a dissolvent.

This fiction owes its origin to the depreciatory accounts of early travellers who, finding Castries (beyond which they did not travel) built principally on land reclaimed from the sea, gave it a reputation which in course of time was illogically made to apply to the whole Island.

But the Castries of to-day is vastly improved, and the great works now in course of construction will make it second to none of the healthy towns of the West Indies.

There are, it is true, remote localities in the country which, surrounded by dense forest, are not distinguished for salubrity. But with the gradual advance of cultivation their sanitation will improve. Be they what they may, they are not fatal to the natives nor even to Europeans who lead regular lives, who refrain from the inordinate use of alcohol, and who do not stint themselves in the matter of food. Our people are large consumers of beef, and thereby maintain their vitality in sickness. This is a fact which I have heard acknowledged by new comers who have had experience of other West India colonies, and to it they ascribe our comparatively low death rate, for malarial fever, though it will harass, seldom kills those on whom it fastens.

The large number of deaths compared with the births in the Castries district need not cause surprise. To the capital town itself many resort from the country districts for medical assistance and care, whilst numbers are received at the hospitals and charitable institutions. Those that fail to recover are reported to the registrar at Castries, and they thus contribute to the death roll of the first district.

For years past we have had no epidemic of a more serious or general type than one of whooping cough in 1879, to which the deaths of 81 children were then ascribed. Dysentery exists in a more or less mild form at Soufriere in consequence of the quality of the water consumed by the people. During the year 1885 there was no prevalent or prominent disease in the Colony.

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The ages at death in the different age groups of the mortality table annexed were per centum of the total deaths as follows :—

Under one year	- - -		- 30·54
1 to 5 years	- -	15·84	
5 „ 10 „	- - -	4·24	
10 „ 15 „	- - -	2·92	
		——	23·00
15 „ 20 „	- - -	3·02	
20 „ 30 „	- - -	6·59	
30 „ 40 „	- - -	8·58	
40 „ 50 „	- -	7·35	
50 „ 60 „	- - -	5·84	
60 „ 70 „ and upwards	- -	15·08	
		——	46·46
			100·00

It would thus appear that the infant mortality represents 30½ per cent. of the total deaths. We also find that of every 1,000 children born 184 fail to attain the end of their first year.

I have in several previous reports, dwelt at length on this high rate of infant mortality, the causes of which may be summarised as follows :—(1) intentional neglect before or after birth; (2) incompetence of self-styled midwives; (3) protracted daily absence of mothers of the labouring and domestic classes.

The classified causes of deaths in Table IV. call for no special remarks. It may, however, be mentioned that nine labourers in the country (in a population exceeding 41,000 souls) succumbed to the bites of snakes, and that one criminal suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

From the parish registers—1,439 baptisms, 1,352 Catholic and 8 Protestant—were abstracted.

The marriages celebrated numbered 131, one of which was between Protestants.

The burials were returned as follows :—

Catholic - - - -	- 459
Protestant - - - -	- 56
Lay - - - - -	- 509
	1,024

leaving 37 bodies unaccounted for.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. CLAVIER,
Registrar General of Civil Status.

His Honour Edward Laborde, C.M.G.,
Administrator of the Government,
&c. &c. &c.

ANTIGUA.

No. 11.

Governor the Right Hon. Viscount GORMANSTON to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Government House, Dominica.
27 April 1886.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Antigua for the year 1885, with the Colonial Secretary's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GORMANSTON.
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c.

REPORT on the ANTIGUA BLUE BOOK of 1885.

Finance.

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
41,957	0	1½	41,602	16	2½

The revenue was less by 2,098*l.* than the revenue of 1883, and by 3,338*l.* than the revenue of 1884. This is to be explained principally by the falling off in customs and excise duties, caused by the dulness and contraction of trade resulting from a great fall in the price of sugar, the only staple production of this island.

The expenditure of 1885 was kept as low as possible, and although it comprised the sum of 2,000*l.* the amount of a local loan which fell due, it was less by 1,582*l.* than the expenditure of 1883, and by 1,005*l.* than the expenditure of 1884.

The Waterworks Loan of 30,000*l.* (1865) was paid off by the accumulated principal and interest of the sinking fund established by the Act.

Trade.

Years	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1885 - - - -	144,444	158,980
1884 - - - -	169,500	177,807
1883 - - - -	183,636	222,676

This comparative statement shows how serious has been the fall in the value of the produce exported, and the consequent decline in the demand for imported goods and commodities.

The returns of the quantity of produce exported are as follows, viz:—

	Hhds.
1885. Sugar shipped - - -	13,910
1884. „ „ - - -	16,178
1883. „ „ - - -	12,402

Three fourths of the quantity of sugar shipped in 1885 went to the United States. 6,059 puncheons of molasses were shipped. 4,917 of these went to British North America.

Agriculture.

Early in 1885 there was a recovery in the price of sugar of about three shillings the hundredweight. This reaction, not unexpected by those accustomed to note the ebb and flow of prices, combined with an intelligent economy and thrift, enabled proprietors unweighted by debt and the other abnormal obligations which the sugar growing and sugar making industry has always been presumed to be peculiarly able to bear, not only "to make the two ends meet," but to realize a fair and reasonable profit.

It should be remarked that when the sudden and severe fall in prices occurred the agricultural labourers of Antigua recognizing the actual and critical condition of the staple industry in which their interest was bound up with that of their employers, accepted without murmuring or complaining a reduction in their wages which was no doubt necessary and unavoidable.

It is to be hoped that should more prosperous times arrive to reward the enterprise and perseverance of the employer, he will be willing and prompt to restore to their former level the wages of those, the labour of whose hands is to him indispensable.

Education.

The report of the Inspector of Schools speaks as follows respecting Antigua:—

"Spring Gardens, Moravian, the largest school in the whole Colony, is again at the head of the list of schools in this Island."

"Grace Hill, Moravian, and St. James, Anglican, schools, have lost their respective classes and decreased in numbers; whilst Sweets, Moravian school, has largely increased in numbers, and has advanced into the first class, owing to the energy and perseverance of Mr. Peters, the master."

"St. Peter's, Anglican school, has been closed *pro tem.* The floor was in a dangerous condition, and the whole place was unfit for use altogether. The building of a new school-house has lately been commenced. The teachers' residence is already finished and in position."

"The new school-room is of Gothic design, with a bell turret surmounting a gable on the east end. It will measure 70 feet from east to west, and 30 feet from north to south. It will accommodate about 200 children, and is calculated to cost 260*l.*, not including the cost of fittings, benches, and school apparatus."

"In Antigua the Government grant-in-aid has evoked voluntary contributions amounting to 718*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* Yet this, owing to 'bad times,' is not so large an amount as has been contributed in former years."

"Similar remarks apply to the other Islands of the Colony, excepting in the case of the Government schools in Dominica, and show plainly the economical advantage of the present donominational system."

Free education, which has its eloquent and able advocates in England, exists to a great extent in Antigua and in the other Leeward Islands as will be seen by the following extract from the report of the Inspector:—

"Section 8 of the present Education Act requires payment of school fees. In every school in the Colony, except the Victoria Orphanage, Roseau, Dominica, attempts are made to recover them. But, if payment were insisted upon in many of the poor country schools the average attendance would immediately be reduced; and if the Government grant-in-aid were withdrawn, the school would then be closed. This surely would not be the right way to fill the present schools with pupils."

General Remarks.

The report of the Registrar General repeats the old story of the moral degradation of the masses in the Presidency. It appears that of the children born last year, 65·1 per cent. were illegitimate, a rate exceeding that of any other West India island. I may state that in 1883 the percentage was 68. Such a state of things.

ANTIGUA.

which churches and chapels and schools appear little to affect, operates fatally on the rearing of infants and young children.

In 1885, 132 marriages were registered, being 53 less than the number registered in 1884. The blacks will have no wedding unless they can spend on it much money in dress and revelry. Hence a decline in prices and wages means a falling off in marriages, and in a general way the long waiting until sufficient money has been accumulated to pay for ridiculous ostentation and vulgar orgies ends in the cohabitation being never sanctioned by the marriage ceremony.

In 1885, 1,419 births were registered, an increase of 63 over the number registered in 1884.

(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
Colonial Secretary of the
Leeward Islands and Island
Secretary and President of
Antigua.

DOMINICA.

DOMINICA.

No. 12.

Governor the Right Hon. VISCOUNT GORMANSTON to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Government House, Dominica,
April 28, 1886.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1885, with the Acting President's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GORMANSTON,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the DOMINICA BLUE BOOK for 1885.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Revenue for 1885 - -	17,093	16	10
Expenditure for 1885 -	16,926	16	3

1. In the net revenue are included the following sums:—

	£	s.	d.
Arrears of revenue of last year -	292	9	4½
Incidental receipts - - -	121	14	2
Balance of Roseau River Embankment fund appropriated to general revenue - - -	697	15	9
Piers and wharves (special fund) -	203	8	6½
Balances carried to account from 1884	1,252	7	0½

2. The receipts from the fixed and permanent sources of revenue underwent a further reduction as compared with 1884, the import duties alone showing a decrease of 1,520*l.*

3. There was also a decrease of 316*l.* 9*s.* in excise duties, and of 138*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* in the receipts from liquor selling and general trade licenses.

4. These and other losses were only partially recouped by an increase of 201*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* in the export duties.

5. No alteration whatever having been made in the taxation of the Presidency during the past five years it is easy to exhibit in a tabular return, for purposes of comparison, the receipts under each head of revenue in each of those years from 1881–1885, respectively.

6. I exclude the 5 per cent. additional tax which is not an ordinary source of revenue, not having been collected at all in the years 1881 and 1884, and the receipts from pier dues, collected for the first time in 1883, and forming a special fund for repairs of piers and wharves.

Table showing the receipts from fixed and permanent sources of revenue under each head for the five years, 1881–1885, respectively:—

——	1881.			1882.			1883.			1884.			1885.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import duty - -	7,966	11	5	7,550	11	7	8,086	5	6	7,335	1	10	5,815	1	10
Tonnage „ - -	361	8	0	442	10	0	306	10	0	211	6	0	232	6	0
Package „ - -	7	0	0	25	10	11	32	7	11	29	17	5	3	8	10
Harbour „ - -	140	4	2	146	17	6	137	10	0	106	13	4	88	6	8
Export „ - -	1,245	12	9	1,284	5	3	1,271	8	8	914	5	0	1,115	17	3
Excise „ - -	2,674	4	6½	2,517	18	6	2,665	13	3	2,328	17	7	2,012	7	8
Liquor and still licenses - -	585	15	0	438	8	4	627	6	8	540	5	0	459	16	8
Trade licenses - -	474	12	6	376	0	0	386	2	6	381	7	6	322	17	6
Boat „ - -	173	17	10	166	0	11	176	15	1	154	10	4	150	13	4½
Dog „ - -	17	4	0	18	10	0	17	14	0	12	8	0	10	16	0
Porter and waterman licenses - -	20	14	0	18	16	0	21	4	0	16	14	0	12	16	0
Petty debt fees -	69	2	0	54	1	9	58	13	9	57	1	6	44	19	8
Judicial fee stamps -	69	13	11	222	6	7½	274	18	2	61	11	0	205	17	6
Marshal's fees - -	102	16	9	49	17	7	38	1	1½	288	14	2	74	7	5
Market fees - -	56	18	0	64	3	1	63	18	4	20	6	11	59	18	4
Post office revenue -	217	16	4½	259	13	9	291	10	7	252	8	0	266	6	0
Fines, &c. - -	665	13	1½	448	14	7	609	16	11	416	5	7½	392	14	5
Warehouse rent -	27	19	1½	14	19	0	27	8	0½	11	16	2	10	7	3½
Ordnance rent - -	68	6	0	11	1	0	54	17	0	13	2	4	3	2	6
House tax - -	365	8	11	384	8	1	359	0	5	335	13	11	346	16	7
Income tax - -	269	9	0	252	4	8	277	18	2	233	14	2	247	17	6
Horse tax - -	24	11	8	18	15	0	47	18	4	36	13	4	36	13	4
Water tax - -	120	4	0	121	5	10	119	7	9	106	19	8	124	6	8
Stamp tax including passports - -	338	10	8	284	12	0	302	7	9	251	6	8	222	4	4
Yaws tax of 10 per cent.	1,573	18	1	1,373	2	3	1,445	11	1	1,267	13	0½	1,087	1	9½
Water works revenue	120	4	0	115	3	5½	87	18	11	74	10	4½	112	11	0
Road fund and wheel tax - - -	1,302	9	4	1,844	11	5½	946	15	0	596	7	0	506	12	3
Miscellaneous - -	5	11	5	37	1	10½	24	9	2½	39	14	6	1	19	0
	19,065	16	7	18,541	11	0	18,759	8	1½	16,09	4	4½	13,968	3	4½

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7. On reference to the foregoing table, and after comparison of the total of each year's revenue, it will appear that there was no very marked falling off in the total annual receipts until the year 1884.

8. In that year (1884) the ordinary revenue shows a decline of 2,970*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.* as compared with the first of the five years under comparison, viz., 1881, and on the same basis of comparison the revenue for the past year (1885) shows a falling off of 5,097*l.* 13*s.* 2½*d.*

9. On glancing at the receipts attributed to each of the several heads of revenue it will be noticed that the falling off has been most remarkable in customs duties, in short in those taxes and duties which depend upon the energy of trade and the maintenance of population and the popular demand for articles of general consumption for their continued vitality as sources of revenue.

10. For an explanation of the causes of the present declining state of the revenue it would seem to be unnecessary to look deeper than those which are supplied in the well-known facts of the present depression in the trade and agriculture of this Island, the effects of which are only now being felt and appreciated to the fullest extent.

11. The methods of tax collection are, indeed, admittedly imperfect, but they are precisely the same as those under which the higher revenues of the years from 1881–1883 were collected, neither better nor worse, and the *personnel* of the revenue department is almost unaltered.

12. The acutal expenditure of the year 1885 amounted to 16,122*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*

13. There were considerable savings effected in almost every department of the public service, amounting in the local establishment to 782*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*; and the cost of keeping up the Hospitals and Poorhouse was materially reduced as well as the cost of the repairs to roads and streets.

14. An expenditure of 179*l.* 12*s.* upon the work of strengthening the abutments of the bridge over the Roseau river was incurred, but the work was a part of the original embankment scheme and was paid for out of the Embankment fund.

15. The balance standing to the credit of this fund at the commencement of the year was 877*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* and the balance remaining after the completion of the work above-mentioned was 697*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*

16. This fund had been already drawn upon in aid of the general revenue to the extent of 1,200*l.*, which sum had been appropriated by legislative enactment as a portion of the provision necessary to be made for the repairs of public buildings after the destructive hurricane of 4th September, 1883; the balance, consisting of 697*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, was inadequate to the completion of the original design, and an Act was therefore passed by the Governor and Legislature appropriating it to general uses.

17. The total decrease under all the ordinary heads of expenditure as compared with the expenditure under the same heads in the previous year (1884) was 2,291*l.* 10*s.* 7½*d.*, but notwith-

standing this very large saving, there was a deficiency of revenue to meet actual expenditure at the close of the year of 537*l.*

18. That sum was obtained, as above-mentioned, by the appropriation of the balance remaining to the credit of the Embankment fund, amounting to 697*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*

Imports and Exports.

19. The total value in sterling of the imports and exports in the year 1885 was :—

Imports.	Exports.
50,204*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*	52,486*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*

with the following distribution :—

Countries.	Total Imports therefrom.	Exports thereto.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
United Kingdom - - -	18,850 4 4	13,018 5 3
British Colonies - - -	11,506 18 0	1,671 5 6
Foreign Countries - - -	19,847 14 6	37,796 14 4

20. There was a slight improvement in the export trade as compared with that of the previous year (1884) but the quantity and value of imports still further declined as may be seen by reference to the following comparative table :—

Tabular return of the total value in sterling of the imports and exports for five years 1881–1885.

——	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports -	64,968	72,327	71,330	60,536	50,204
Exports -	55,163	65,453	63,284	47,288	52,486

21. There is no change to be remarked in the character of the trade of the Island, the imports consisting as formerly almost entirely of articles of the first necessity either as food or clothing, but imported in diminished quantity corresponding to the diminished purchasing power of the labouring classes, and the exports consisting of agricultural produce varying little in kind or amount.

22. The value in sterling of the food-stuffs imported was 15,339*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, and the duty paid upon was 2,458*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*

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23. The export of muscovado sugar was valued at 31,160*l.* the proportion exported to America being 26,609*l.* and that to the United Kingdom 4,268*l.*

24. The following tables will show all the articles which are imported or exported in such quantities as to be worth comparison, and the relative amounts imported or exported for each of the past five years 1881–1885.

Tabular Return of Imports from 1881–1885.

Articles imported.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
	£	£	£	£	£
Beef and pork -	1,096	1,378	1,747	1,237	886
Dried fish - -	4,842	4,322	4,772	4,069	4,328
Wheaten flour -	8,817	7,932	7,850	9,633	6,084
Lard - -	757	737	692	752	820
Olive oil - -	1,741	1,904	2,021	1,300	1,263
Rice - -	814	445	778	1,717	299
Malt liquors - -	832	870	849	405	406
Spirits - -	1,083	1,253	956	958	444
Wines - -	1,324	1,271	1,157	878	775
Boots and shoes -	1,325	1,610	1,386	1,227	904
Cottons, woollens, and haberdashery -	14,643	18,917	17,674	11,420	12,441
Hardware - -	1,840	2,646	2,238	1,645	1,210

Tabular Return of Exports from 1881–1885.

Produce exported.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar - -	31,262	41,577	39,487	26,633	31,160
Molasses -	1,528	2,897	2,919	1,405	2,317
Lime juice - -	6,386	5,081	4,619	3,266	3,252
Coffee - -	157	321	201	27	61
Cocoa - -	12,623	6,374	7,889	6,487	7,796
Fruit - - -	128	607	1,523	1,759	951
Bay leaves - -	1,162	3,090	526	305	242
Essential oils -	—	126	310	284	302
Firewood - -	500	406	469	461	274
Cinnamon - -	—	24	—	6	230

Criminal Statistics.

25. There were 2,189 persons summoned before the magistrates, an increase of 78 as compared with the numbers of the previous year (1884).

26. The cases were disposed of in the Magistrates' Courts as follows:—

Discharged for want of prosecution -	630
Dismissed on the merits -	568
Summary convictions - -	971
Committed for trial - -	20

27. Of the persons convicted in the Magistrates' Courts, 685 were fined, 152 underwent imprisonment in default of payments of fines, and 52 peremptory imprisonment.

28. Of the total number of cases 585 were prosecutions under the Road Act for default in payment of the statute labour tax, and were disposed of as follows:—

Discharged for want of prosecution -	254
Dismissed on the merits - -	140
Fined - - - -	173
Imprisonment in default - -	18

29. There were 11 convictions in the superior courts, eight of which were of offences against property, and two of assault.

30. Of the total number of 216 persons committed during the year for the purposes of penal imprisonment, there were 110 against whom previous convictions were recorded, viz.:—

Persons previously convicted once - -	42
„ „ twice - -	22
„ „ thrice or more -	46

General Remarks.

31. The continual depression in trade, of which the financial and trade returns of the past year afford sufficient evidence, is caused chiefly by the withdrawal of capital from the cultivation of sugar estates, the consequent dearth of employment, and diminished resources of the labouring population.

32. There has been no acute or widely spread distress because the mass of the people are, in ordinary years, placed beyond the risk of famine by the abundance and cheapness of the vegetable food products of the Island.

33. Emigration to Venezuela and Cayenne continued (relatively to the diminished numbers of the population) on the same scale as formerly. There were 601 deck passengers who left by the Royal Mail Company's steamers. 98 passports were issued for Cayenne, and 56 for the neighbouring French islands.

34. This emigration is much deplored, and, in the absence of correct ideas respecting the powers and functions of a Government which is so often remarkable in these very small communities, it is not, perhaps, surprising that appeals should have been made, even by members of the Legislature, suggesting the adoption of restrictive measures by the Government, but there are no valid grounds for interference, the emigration being the outcome of diverse natural causes and not preventible by artificial means.

35. The reliance of all classes upon the sugar industry as the chief source of agricultural wealth has been so rudely shaken by the state of the market since 1882 that a very effective impulse has been given to the planting of cacao and limes, which has much increased lately, and it is not very rash to assert the belief

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that, in the capabilities of this Island for the production of the minor tropical products, as they are called, lies the best promise of the future, although the export of these latter will never equal the former exports of sugar in importance.

36. Mr. Morris, whose eminent services in promoting planting enterprises in Jamaica and throughout the West Indies are so widely known and appreciated, has recently visited Dominica, and I may state that, with regard to the southern portion of the Island (which alone he was able to inspect owing to the short duration of his visit) he formed a high opinion of the opportunities which it affords for the investment of capital in the establishment of coffee and cocoa plantations, and, in regard to that class of exports, he considers that the Island may attain to a position inferior only to that of Grenada amongst the West Indian islands.

(Signed) JOHN S. CHURCHILL,
Acting President.

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No. 13.

Lieut.-Governor A. C. S. BARKLEY, Esq., to Colonel the Right Hon. F. A. STANLEY, M.P.

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
SIR, March 20, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith two copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1885, together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.
(igned) ARTHUR BARKLEY,
Lieut.-Governor

Colonel the Right Hon.
Frederick Arthur Stanley, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS BLUE BOOK FOR 1885. FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Taxes and Duties.

There has been no change under this head during 1885.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of 1885 was 10,438*l.*, or 2,728*l.* 10*s.* above the estimated amount, which was 7,710*l.*

The excess under the several heads was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	242	15	1
Fines, fees, &c.	9	0	6
Land revenue	6	13	6
Sales of Government property	9	15	2
Postage	13	4	9
Miscellaneous receipts	13	13	2
Sale of Crown lands	2,480	3	10

Under the following heads a deficiency in the estimated receipts occurred:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Licenses, deficiency	20	3	4
Rents, exclusive of land	10	16	9
Auction duty	15	16	1

No aid was received from the Imperial Government during the year.

The expenditure in 1885 was 7,598*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, or 24*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* below the estimated amount of 7,623*l.*

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December 1885, inclusive of the cash in the Colonial Chest (1,948*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*) and of that in the Crown Agent's hands (3,732*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*) amounted to 5,143*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*

The Colony has no Public Debt.

Public Works.

No new public works were undertaken during 1885, but some necessary repairs to Government buildings were made, and the reconstruction of drains and improvement of roads and streets was carried on whenever the weather permitted.

Legislation.

Three Ordinances were passed during the year:—

No. 1.—A Naturalization Ordinance.

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No. 2.—An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Falkland Islands for the year 1886.

No. 3.—An Ordinance to amend the Customs Duties Consolidation Ordinance.

Civil Establishments.

A vacancy occurred in the office of chief constable, by the resignation of Mr. John McNiece, who was obliged to leave the Colony on the 11th of March in consequence of serious illness, and Mr. George Hurst was appointed provisionally as his successor. Francis H. Parry, gaoler and court keeper, retired on a pension, and was succeeded on the 1st of January by William McDaid.

Pensions.

A pension, at a rate of 45*l.* 12*s.* per annum, was granted to Francis H. Parry, late gaoler and court keeper from 1st of January 1885, but lapsed by his death on the 21st of April following.

Population and Vital Statistics.

There were 57 births in 1885: 31 males and 26 females. The deaths registered were 22; 18 being those of males and 4 of females.

One of these deaths, though registered in the Colony, occurred at sea. Of the remaining 21, which number represents the actual deaths amongst the population, the causes were as follows:—

Senile decay	2
Inanition and debility	3
Convulsions	2
Consumption	4
Hydrorachitis	3
Kidney disease	1
Typhus fever	1
Typhoid fever	2
Spina bifida	1
Rupture of blood vessel	1
Drowning	1
Accident	1
Suicide	1

The health of the Colony was, on the whole, good during the year; but some cases of enteric fever occurred, and the sanitary arrangements of the town of Stanley were unfavourably reported on by the Colonial Surgeon. This led to the appointment by Governor Kerr of a Sanitary Commission, as a result of whose report a Public Health Ordinance is being framed, which I trust

will have the effect of securing better drainage, and more adequate protection of the water supply from pollution than have hitherto existed in the Settlement.

The population at the end of 1885 may be approximately stated as 1,676, of whom between 500 and 600 are resident in Stanley.

Education.

The Colonial chaplain reports that the Government day schools in Stanley are well attended, and that the teaching is regular and thorough. The average attendance and the number on the rolls are stated to bear a fair proportion to each other; but there appear to be a good many children in the Settlement who rarely, if ever, attend school. In the country districts, particularly in the West Falkland, and in the outlying islands, education is in a very backward condition. At Darwin, the Falkland Islands Company have a school for the children of their employés, but in other places there are no means of education whatever beyond what the parents themselves can afford, and they are in some cases ill educated, and in others have not sufficient time to devote to the teaching of their children. Mr. Brandon adds:—"I know of "many cases in which the children have grown up utterly unable "to read the simplest book, or to write their own names, and of "course this state of things is growing worse each year the popula- "tion increases." This is a regrettable position of affairs, and I trust it will soon be found practicable to improve it. I am about to visit the Western Island, and will confer with the principal inhabitants on the subject of some better provision being made for education there, and report further on the matter.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports in 1885 was 48,314*l.*, and the exports reached the value of 97,846*l.* These amounts show a slight decrease as compared with those of 1884.

Shipping Returns.

Twenty-one sailing vessels entered during 1885, the aggregate tonnage of which was 11,353 tons. Of these vessels 11 put in in distress, and one on account of mutiny on board. There were three wrecks during the year; those of the English ships "Perthshire" and "Rover of the Seas," and the Italian vessel "Luigia S." Only one English man-of-war, H.M.S. "Ready," came in during 1885; and one German war vessel, the "Prinz Adalbert," visited the Colony.

Criminal Statistics.

Thirty-nine cases were reported to the police as against 82 in the previous year. Four persons were tried before the Supreme

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Court, two of whom were convicted and two acquitted. The remaining cases were dealt with in the Police Magistrate's Court, in which there were 34 convictions and one acquittal. Nine persons were peremptorily imprisoned, and four imprisoned in lieu of fine or surety.

The amount of serious crime committed in the Colony appears to be very small.

General Remarks.

Owing to the short period which has elapsed since my assumption of the Government, I am unable to say much under this head.

The improvement in the financial position of the Colony during the last few years is, however, an obvious fact, as the revenue collected under heads other than that of "Sale of Crown Lands" is now nearly double what it was in 1880. In that year the amount was 4,462*l.*, whilst in 1885 the receipts (exclusive of land sales) reached the sum of 7,883*l.* 6*s.*, notwithstanding that the winter before had been unusually severe, and the losses of stock sustained in consequence by the sheep farmers appeared likely to affect the revenue injuriously. (*Vide* Blue Book Report 1884.)

The year 1885 is memorable in the history of the Colony as being the first in which no pecuniary aid has been received from the Imperial Government.

If all continues to go well it is to be hoped that for the future these Islands will be able to bear the whole charges of their own administration, although the cost of maintaining the mail service is somewhat heavy in proportion to the revenue, especially with the addition of the 300*l.* a year lately voted for the West Falkland service.

(Signed) ARTHUR BARKLEY,
Government House, March 1886. Lieut.-Governor.

MALTA.

No. 14.

Governor Sir J. L. SIMMONS, G.C.B., to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

MY LORD, Palace, Valletta, May 12, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to forward for your Lordship's information, a report by Mr. Hely Hutchinson, the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government, on the Malta Blue Book for 1885.

The Blue Book will be transmitted in due course.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS,
The Earl Granville, Governor.
&c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Malta,
SIR, May 11, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following report on the Blue Book for 1885:—

1. The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of 1885 as compared with 1884:—

Revenue.

—	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1884 - - -	132,850 5 10	79,718 16 4	212,569 2 2
1885 - - -	135,907 11 3	77,403 18 0¾	213,311 9 3¾
Increase - -	3,057 5 5	—	742 7 1¾
Decrease - -	—	2,314 18 3¼	—

Or eliminating from "other receipts" of 1884 the 10,000*l.* granted by the Imperial Government on account of the "Egyptain Refugees," and from the "other receipts" of 1885 the

increase in the revenue of the Post Office due to the transfer to the Colony on 1st June 1885.

	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1884 - - -	132,850 5 10	69,718 16 4	202,569 2 2
1885 - - -	135,907 11 3	69,732 8 5¾	205,639 19 8¾
Increase - -	3,057 5 5	13 12 1¾	3,070 17 6¾

Expenditure.

	Establishments.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1884 - - -	80,605 13 6	129,189 7 5	209,795 0 11
1885 - - -	87,712 11 8	138,633 2 7¾	226,345 14 3¾
Increase - - -	7,106 18 2	9,443 15 2¾	16,550 13 4¾

Or eliminating from the expenditure for 1885 the difference due to the transfer of the Post Office to Colonial control.

	Establishments.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1884 - - -	80,605 13 6	129,189 7 5	209,795 0 11
1885 - - -	85,892 11 8	137,571 2 7¾	223,463 14 3¾
Increase - - -	*5,286 18 2	8,381 15 2¾	13,668 13 4¾

	£	s.	d.
2. The cash balances on the 31st December 1885 amounted to - - -	37,491	17	9½
Add balance on Investment Account -	20,360	0	11¾
Advances repayable - - -	8,548	13	8
Total surplus on 31st December 1885 -	66,400	12	5¼

* Mainly due to the temporary employment of a large number of additional sanitary inspectors and quarantine guards, &c., during the year, and to the fact that by order of the Secretary of State the cost of uniforms and clothing has been charged in 1885 under "Establishments." These increases are either temporary or nominal; the remaining part of the increase is due to additions to salaries, which have received the sanction of the Secretary of State.

Public Debt.

3. Malta has no public debt; but, in addition to certain burthens on property taken over from the Grand Masters, and other property of pious foundations administered by Government, amounting to 1,773*l.* 10*s.* a year, the Island pays interest of 2½ per cent. on a sum of 78,368*l.* 5*s.* 2¾*d.*, representing money invested in the "Massa Frumentaria," and 2 per cent. on a capital of 7,111*l.* 17*s.* 1½*d.* originally raised for carrying on the pawning transactions in the "Monte di Pietà."

Court deposits and savings bank deposits are covered by investments, and interest at the rate of 2 per cent. is paid on the latter on capitals of 100*l.* and under.

Legislation.

4. The Council of Government met for the first time in 1885 on the 19th November.

The following legislation was effected during the year:—

Ordinances.

No. I.

For applying a sum not exceeding 43,658*l.* 3*s.* 10¼*d.* to the service of the year 1882.

No. II.

For applying a sum not exceeding 157,568*l.* 14*s.* to the service of the year 1884.

No. III.

To amend the criminal laws.

No. IV.

To make some provisions respecting the importation, manufacture, keeping, selling, and carrying of explosive substances.

No. V.

To exempt the parish church of Misida from the obligation of selling certain property.

No. VI.

To exempt the sodality of priests established in the Collegiate and parish church of St. Paul in the city of Valletta, from the obligation of selling certain property.

No. VII.

To exempt the convent of the Carmelite Friars of the City of Notabile from the obligation of selling certain property.

No. VIII.

To amend the laws concerning certain public offices.

No. IX.

To amend the laws relating to the organization of the Police Force.

No. X.

For applying a sum not exceeding 19,828*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* to the service of the year 1883.

No. XI.

For applying a sum not exceeding 26,503*l.* 5*s.* 11¾*d.* to the service of the year 1884.

No. XII.

For applying a sum not exceeding 166,585*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* to the service of the year 1885.

No. XIII.

To make certain provisions relative to the public health.

No. XIV.

To amend articles 65g., 65h., 65i., of the Police laws.

No. XV.

To amend article 968 of the Laws of Organization and Civil Procedure.

No. XVI.

To prohibit the importation of Silver Money of the Old Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, commonly called Sicilian Money.

Ordinance No. III. contains, amongst other provisions, a provision for the punishment of wilful damage to the railway, prohibits the sale of foreign lottery tickets, and the publication or sale without license, of plans of the local fortifications.

Ordinance No. IV. contains provisions in accordance with modern practice, with regard to the importation, manufacture &c. of explosives.

Ordinance No. VIII. contains provisions enabling the reorganization of the Medical Staff to be carried into effect.

Ordinance No. IX. contains the necessary provisions for bringing the Police Force under proper discipline. Hitherto the Police have been under no legal discipline whatever. The result has been a considerable improvement in the efficiency of the Force.

Ordinance No. XIII. was passed in view of the sanitary state of the Mediterranean seaboard, to enable the Government to take prompt measures in case of an invasion of cholera.

Ordinance No. XIV. amends certain provisions in the Sanitary Laws, which had been found not to work well.

Ordinance No. XV. provides for the exchange of Court-Deposits of foreign coin, so as to enable the proceeds to be lodged in the Treasury instead of in the Monte di Pietà.

Ordinance No. XVI. provides for the exclusion of the so called "Sicilian dollar" from the Island. The reasons for passing this Ordinance are explained under the head of general observations.

Civil Establishment.

5. There were several changes during the year in various departments.

Dr. George Cousin was appointed Auditor General and Director of Contracts, vice Mr. F. P. Hoare, retired on a pension, Syndic Dr. Guiseppe Falzon was promoted to a magistracy, in the place of Dr. W. Rapinet.

Dr. W. P. Micallef, formerly a magistrate for Gozo, was appointed a syndic of one of the country districts, and the situation of magistrate vacated by him has been abolished.

An Assistant Superintendent of Police was added to the Police Force, and Dr. Giovani Battista Mifsud was appointed to the new situation.

Dr. Paolo de Bono, was appointed Professor of Law in the University of Malta, instead of Professor Nicola Crescimanno, deceased.

Dr. Teodoro Bonnici, was appointed Professor of Surgery, vice Professor S. L. Pisani, M.D., promoted to the new situation of Chief Government Medical Officer.

Dr. Enrico Magro, was appointed Professor of Mathematics and Physics, in the place of Professor Giorgio Schinas, appointed Resident Engineer of the Waterworks.

Mr. Charles Rapinet, was promoted to the situation of Commissary of the Monte di Pietà, vice Dr. George Cousin.

The office of Chief Police Physician, held for many years by Dr. Antonio Ghio, an officer who has rendered valuable services to the Government, and has now retired, and the offices of the so-called "Police Physicians" were abolished.

Professor S. L. Pisani, M.D., was appointed Chief Government Medical Officer and Inspector of Hospitals, to which office all

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powers and duties formerly appertaining to the office of Chief Police Physician were transferred.

The medical officers, hitherto styled "Police Physicians" have been placed under the Department of the Charitable Institutions, and styled "District Medical Officers," and all powers and duties formerly appertaining to the Police Physicians have been transferred to the District Medical Officers.

The Sanitary Department, as such, has been abolished, and all duties hitherto carried out by this department have been transferred to the Police Office, and are performed there with the assistance of the Sanitary Inspector.

The offices of Analytical Chemist and Sanitary Chemist have been attached to the Police Department, and the office of Advising Engineer and the staff of sanitary overseers transferred to the Drainage Office.

A medical officer has been attached to the Department of the Ports, and styled "Quarantine Medical Officer," to which post Dr. R. Carbone, formerly police physician, has been appointed.

The slaughter-house fees, formerly receivable by the medical officer charged with the inspection of meat, and now paid into the Treasury, more than cover the cost of this appointment.

The Medical Board has been increased by two members, the Sanitary Inspector and the Quarantine medical officer.

The Board of Health has been made to consist of the ex officio members of the medical Board, sitting, as before, under the presidency of His Excellency the Governor, with the Lieutenant-Governor as Vice-President, the Superintendent of the Ports, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, and the Senior Naval and Military Medical officers, with the Assistant Superintendent of the Ports, who is, ex officio, Secretary to the Board.

The Lunatic Asylum Board consists now of the following officers:—The Comptroller of the Charitable Institutions, the Visiting Medical Officer of the Lunatic Asylum, the Resident Medical Officer of the Lunatic Asylum, and the Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.

The Deputy Receiver General in Gozo, Mr. R. Micallef, was appointed to the new post of Assistant Secretary to Government for Gozo.

Population.

6. The population is steadily increasing. The last census, in April 1881, gave the number as 149,782. The estimated population in 1884 from natural increase was 156,675. To these figures may be added 459, the increase in 1885, and the population at the close of that year may be put down as 157,134.

The birth rate in the year was nearly 38 per 1,000, and the death rate nearly 35 per 1,000.

Savings Banks.

7. The amount of deposits in the savings banks was as follows:—

	1885.	Depositors.	1884.	Depositors.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
In Malta - -	323,366 17 10¼	4,411	307,555 6 4¾	4,355
In Gozo - -	19,715 8 1	394	17,743 8 0¼	354
Total -	343,082 5 11¼	4,805	325,298 14 5	4,709

showing an increase of 17,783*l.* 11*s.* 6¼*d.*, and an average of 71*l.* per depositor, against 69*l.* in 1884, and 67*l.* in 1883.

Education.

8. The following is a list of the Government educational establishments:—

	No. of Scholars.	
	1885.	1884.
The University, attended by - -	74	49
The Lyceum, attended by - -	433	474
Two Secondary Schools, attended by -	128	125
Seventy-five Primary Schools, attended by - - - - - -	8,387	8,240
Eight Infant Schools, attended by -	921	929
Total - - -	9,943	9,817

showing an increase of 126 in the number of scholars.

During the year a vote was submitted to the Council to cover the cost of commencing the construction of a new primary school at Hamrun, the house now used as a school being insanitary, the accommodation altogether insufficient, and the village, which is thickly populated by persons of the labouring class, not containing any suitable building.

A majority of the elected members, however, voted against the proposal, on the ground that their proposals for returning to the system of education, which was condemned by Sir P. Keenan and abolished, with the sanction of the Government, by the present Director of Education, have not been complied with. A similar fate has attended a proposal to comply with the prayer of a petition from 222 inhabitants of Casal Zabbar, belonging to the working classes, who had asked for the establishment of a night school for teaching Maltese and English to artizans and labourers in that village. A vote of 26*l.* to cover the cost of the night school was opposed by a majority of the elected members, mainly on the ground that Italian was not included in the curriculum.

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Funds having been provided in the general education vote of 1885 for the establishment of night schools in the Three Cities, the general vote having been carried against the opposition of the majority of the elected members, night schools were opened in each of the Three Cities during the year. The attendance was so large that the vote was insufficient to cover the cost, and school fees had to be charged. The fees were gladly paid.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

9. The following is the value of cargoes imported and actually landed at this port -	£ 748,259	against	£ 634,744	in 1884.
Value of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same bottoms - -	17,409,004	„	12,709,045	„
viz. :—				
From the United Kingdom - -	117,333	„	112,899	„
From the British Colonies - -	2,741,760	„	1,772,384	„
From H.M. Ships in port - -	435	„	1,582	„
From Foreign Countries	15,297,735	„	11,446,924	„
	18,157,263		13,343,789	„
showing an increase of -	4,813,474			

10. The value of exports from portions of cargoes which were landed at this port -	£ 53,051	against	£ 68,049	in 1884.
Value of exports of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same bottoms -	17,355,978	„	12,840,443	„
	17,409,029	„	12,908,492	„
viz. :—				
To the United Kingdom	5,629,361	against	3,120,319	„
„ British Colonies -	4,077,118	„	3,574,645	„
„ H.M. Ships -	6,925	„	6,738	„
„ Foreign Countries -	7,695,625	„	6,206,790	„
	17,409,029		12,908,492	

showing an increase of 4,500,537*l.*

The value of local agricultural produce exported in 1885 was 69,187*l.* against 77,824*l.*, in 1884, showing a decrease of 8,638*l.*

Shipping.

11. The shipping movement in the port during the last two years is shown in the following return :—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1884 - - -	3,851	4,383,756	1,530	133,742
1885 - - -	4,424	5,140,817	1,381	128,671
Increase - - -	573	757,061	—	—
Decrease - -	—	—	149	5,071

Criminal Statistics.

12. The following is a statement of offences punishable under the local laws, showing the number of accusations and of persons brought before the courts by the police in 1885 :—

Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	Acquitted.	Condemned.
CRIMINAL LAWS.				
Crimes against public tranquillity - -	30	35	6	29
„ affecting public credit - -	1	1	—	1
„ „ the good order of families	17	22	3	19
„ against the person - - -	482	601	86	515
„ „ property - - -	280	376	62	314
CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Affecting public order - - -	2,165	3,733	281	3,452
Against the person - - - -	659	935	132	803
„ property - - -	68	136	16	120
OTHER CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Under special Ordinances - - -	590	894	27	866
POLICE LAWS.				
Contraventions - - - -	3,540	5,583	208	5,375
Total - -	7,832	12,316	821	11,495

viz. :—

	No.
Maltese - - - - - -	12,192
English - - - - - -	113
Foreign - - - - - -	11
	12,316

The number of persons committed to prison in 1885 was as follows:—

Men - - - -	6,030
Women - - - -	353
Boys - - - -	711
Girls - - - -	4
	7,098

General Observations.

13. The political agitation which has been rife in Malta during the last five years, has now more or less subsided. Except on questions which involve the new system of education, to which the majority of the elected members have found it difficult to reconcile themselves, the proceedings in Council have not been marked by any serious differences of opinion.

A much-needed change has been made in the administration of Gozo. The Deputy Receiver General in that Island used formerly, besides being a subordinate of the Receiver General, to be a subordinate also of the Commissary of the Monte de Pietà, and of the Comptroller of Charitable Institutions. The Works Department was represented by a Surveyor, who was not responsible to the Deputy Receiver General, and the Police by an Inspector.

The schools were not under any local supervision, nor was the Registry of the Courts of Justice.

An Assistant Secretary has now been appointed for the Island of Gozo. He performs the duties of Receiver General, Commissary of the Monte, and Comptroller of Charitable Institutions, in Gozo, independently of the Malta departments; and is entrusted, besides, with the general supervision of every branch of administration in the Island.

He is an officer attached to the Chief Secretary's Department and is investedwith the same powers (subject to certain limitations) which the Chief Secretary would possess were he present in the Island.

The result has been a marked improvement in all the departments in the Island, and the measure which was at first so strongly opposed by a majority of the elected members that they refused to vote an increase of salary to remunerate the additional work, is now unaminously approved, and the salary has been voted without a division.

The officer selected for the post, which is one of considerable importance, was Mr. R. Micallef, formerly a clerk in the Sanitary Office. He has performed his duties to the complete satisfaction of the Government.

During the year the whole of the Medical service has been re-organized by transferring the so-called Police Physicians, now

styled District Medical Officers, from the nominal control of the Police to the control of the Department of Charitable Institutions. The salaries of the District Medical Officers have been placed on a proper basis, and the country dispensaries are in course of re-organization. An officer, called Chief Government Medical Officer, has been appointed, who is officially Medical and Sanitary Adviser to the Governor on all matters of public concern. The Sanitary Office, as a separate office, has been abolished, and the Medical Officer who formerly acted as principal Assistant to the Chief Police Physician, (whose office has now been abolished) in sanitary matters, has been appointed Chief Sanitary Officer. The Sanitary Authority under the Police Laws is the Superintendent of Police. The Chief Sanitary Officer is now attached to the Police Department, and can be and is consulted by the Superintendent without the necessity of correspondence. Much time and labour is saved by this arrangement. The Advising Sanitary Engineer, formerly attached to the Sanitary Office, is now a member of, and Advising Engineer to the Commission in charge of the Drainage Works, which have been finished, but are maintained at the joint expense of the Imperial and Colonial Governments. Plans for re-modelling drainage, to be prescribed by the sanitary authority, which were formerly settled in the Sanitary Office without reference to the general drainage scheme, are now settled in the Drainage Office by the Advising Engineer, and carried out under the supervision of the surveyors attached to that office. The correspondence of the house drainage with the general system of drainage is thus assured.

Great attention has been bestowed on sanitary measures during the year. The insanitary state of the towns on the Mediterranean seaboard, and the prevalence of cholera in many of them, necessitated special precautions, in view of the constant communication which ordinarily exists between Malta and the ports of the Mediterranean.

Instead of resorting to the old pratice of imposing long periods of quarantine on arrivals from ports in which cholera was epidemic, and thus accumulating in the quarantine harbour and station, close to the town, large numbers of vessels and a large population of passengers awaiting pratique, a practice which there is reason to believe has too often led to the development, instead of preventing, the importation of disease, the strong measure of excluding altogether from the port passengers direct from infected places has been taken, whilst passengers from other ports in the Mediterranean have not been permitted to land without a certificate from the British Consul at the port of embarkation, to the effect that they have not been within any infected district within 21 days. These measures have been regarded by many as unnecessarily severe. Cholera, however, did not visit Malta, although last summer it was rife in Palermo, and in other parts of Sicily, and the year before in Naples. Domestic sanitary measures were not neglected. In each village, and in each district

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in the towns, a sanitary inspector was appointed, whose duty it was to see to the immediate removal of all accumulations of filth, and to the whitewashing and cleansing of houses and other buildings. The food supply was carefully inspected, and measures taken, including special powers from the Legislature, for the immediate segregation of choleraic or other infectious disease Portable disinfecting machines were imported, and an oven for sterilizing clothing previous to washing, erected at the quarantine station, whilst the flushing of the drainage system was carefully attended to. A complete installation for three cholera hospitals of 30 beds each had been prepared, and kept in store in case it should be wanted, and places had been selected in which the hospitals could be set up if necessary.

In June, the drainage system of the four cities was completed. The work has been carried out in a most satisfactory manner, at a cost of about 101,000*l.* altogether. Captain Tresidder, R.E., now attached to the department of the Inspector General of Fortifications, was in charge of this work during eight years, and has received the thanks of the Governor for the faithful and efficient manner in which he discharged his duties. The good results of the work, already partially observable in the improved state of the water in the harbours, will not be fully felt until the work of remodelling house drainage has been completed, and the improved water supply is in operation. This was foreseen and pointed out by Captain Tresidder.

There are still large numbers of houses with their drains in an unsatisfactory state, and the sewage from those houses, instead of being at once discharged into the main drains in a fresh and comparatively innocuous state, has time to ferment and evolve dangerous gases, which, escaping through the sewer ventilators, are believed by many to be answerable for a large proportion of the cases of fever which occur. The house drains are, however, being remodelled as quickly as possible, and by the introduction into the towns of a larger quantity of water for flushing, the evil will meanwhile be reduced to a minimum.

Satisfactory progress has been made with the waterworks since the date of my last report. The covered reservoir at Tal Qali, which will hold over 10,000,000 gallons, is well advanced, and will be completed in October next. The nine-inch main has been laid from Tal Qali to San Giuseppe, and the old main from San Giuseppe to Valletta tested, defective pipes replaced by new ones, and the whole system connected with the existing tanks at Tal Qali. Another nine-inch main has been laid from the Tal Armier source into Valletta, in readiness for use as soon as the new pumping engine has been set up at that place. The distributory pipes in Valletta were laid by the end of the year, the distributary pipes in Floriana have now been completed; and the whole of Valletta and Floriana is now supplied with pure water under pressure. The masonry of the service reservoirs, one for Tal Qali and the other for Tal Armier water, on the top of

St. James' Cavalier, has been completed. The roofs are now in course of erection, and the rendering is in hand.

The excavations at the new source of supply at Wied-el-Kbir have been completed, and an ample supply of water found, and the 12-inch main which is to connect that source with the Three Cities has been laid as far as Casal Paola. Engines and pumps have been ordered to supply the Three Cities, and to pump the Tal Armier water to Valletta, and the distributary pipes for the Three Cities have been received. The laying of these distributary pipes will be commenced next month.

A new source of supply has been found close to San Antonio, which has been tested to yield so far, 80,000 gallons a day. Pipes have been laid to the San Antonio tanks. The pumps are erected and an engine is daily expected.

This source of supply will economize a corresponding amount of the water stored at Tal Qali which has hitherto been delivered to San Antonio garden, and to the neighbouring villages, Lia, Attard, and Balzan.

The village of Zebbug has been supplied with water under pressure from the Boschetto aqueduct and public taps have been erected throughout that village. The excavations at Notabile have resulted in the discovery of a source of supply which will be sufficient for Notabile and Rabato. Pipes have been laid, and a small service reservoir is being constructed. An engine which has been for some years lying idle at Sliema has been erected and is at work at the source, and by the end of this year Notabile and Rabato will have a plentiful supply of pure water under pressure. The supply of the village of Sijjiewi from the Boschetto aqueduct is now being taken in hand. The experimental dam at Wied il Qleyya by means of which it was intended to make a commencement towards the storage of water for irrigation purposes has so far proved a success. The reservoir formed by the dam, which is only 14 feet high at present, has a capacity of two millions of gallons, and was filled seven times last winter, and a large and unknown quantity of water overflowed. The reservoir accommodation will now be extended, and pipes laid for distributing the water stored. It is anticipated that the sale of water will pay interest on capital and cost of management, whilst the productive powers of the land within reach of the distributary system will be largely increased. Should the undertaking succeed, similar reservoirs can be formed in other gorges of the Notabile hills, and a material impulse will have been given to the productiveness of the Island.

The works are under the direction of Mr. Osbert Chadwick, A.M.I.C.E., who has designed them all. Mr. Chadwick has succeeded in commanding the confidence not only of the Government, but of the landed proprietors and householders whose interests are involved in the scheme of re-organization.

The tact and judgment which Mr. Chadwick has displayed in humouring local prejudices, the readiness and good humour with which he has listened to and discussed objections which were

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often frivolous; and the skill with which he has availed himself of the local resources, and accepted local methods whenever they were suitable, have disarmed opposition and conciliated support.

The success of the Government in securing the acceptance of the project, apart from the excellence of the proposals themselves, is thus in a great measure due to Mr. Chadwick.

The state of the police force has been a source of complaint for many years. Discipline was lax, and there was difficulty in obtaining suitable recruits. As a result, the duties of the force which, in Malta, are multifarious, were performed in a perfunctory manner, well-founded complaints were continually made, and abuses were rife. As a first step towards the re-organization of the force, a Police Act was passed in 1885 on the model of the Royal Irish Constabulary Act, bringing the force under proper discipline, a system of good conduct pay was inaugurated, the scale of pensions was improved, and the salaries of the inspectors and sub-inspectors placed on a higher scale. Care has been taken to eliminate undesirable characters from the force, and a considerable improvement is already evident. Much remains to be done, and the superintendent fully recognizes the necessity of unremitting attention to the subject.

In November, a panic was caused in Malta by the withdrawal from circulation, in Italy, of the so-called Sicilian dollar. This coin, although long since demonetized in Malta, had become, in spite of the efforts of the Government in past years, almost the sole means of exchange in Malta and Gozo, and large numbers had been hoarded. The Government was obliged to come to the rescue and to undertake the exchange of dollars for such persons as desired to entrust their dollars to Government for exchange.

1,842,530 dollars were collected by the Government, shipped to Italy, and the proceeds paid to the depositors at the rate of 4*s*. per dollar within three and a half months. In addition, 54,000 dollars, belonging to depositors in court were exchanged by the Government, and nearly a million more were exchanged by private hands.

Correspondence on this subject has, I believe, been already printed.

It is sufficient to observe here, that the amount of labour and responsibility incurred by the Government in conducting the conversion was considerable, that the result was favourably received in Malta, and that the action of the Government has received the unqualified approval of the Secretary of State. The Government received material assistance in this matter from private individuals, notably from Mr. Edward Ciantar, a retired merchant, who devoted a great deal of time and trouble, at considerable inconvenience to himself, to advising the Government during the course of the operations.

An epidemic of measles, which occurred during the hottest and most unhealthy part of the year, the summer having been particularly hot, caused a serious rise in infant mortality, and in death from apoplexy.

The death-rate for the first fortnight in August, in Malta, reached the unprecedented rate of 80·57 per thousand.

Two hundred and fifty-four deaths occurred from diphtheria during the year. Considerable expense was incurred by the Government in attempting to segregate and stamp out this disease, The precautions taken were very strict, and it may be that if they had not been taken, the number of deaths from diphtheria would have been greater. The disease, however, still exists, although the cases have materially diminished in number and severity.

The year has on the whole been prosperous. The universal depression in trade affects Malta, as it does other places, but in a less degree. Employment for labour has been plentiful, owing to the extensive works in course of construction at the dockyard, and to the works undertaken by the Civil Government. The revenue received from Customs duties was the highest on record, having reached 135,907*l.* or 2,560*l.* above the receipt for 1883, hitherto the highest on record.

The other branches of revenue also maintained their level, and excluding from the comparison a receipt of 10,000*l.* in 1884 from the Imperial Government, on account of Egyptian refugees, and the increase due in 1885 on account of the Post Office, the nett increase of the revenue in 1885 compared with 1884 was 3,070*l.* 17*s.* 6¾*d.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER HELY HUTCHINSON,
Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

To His Excellency
Sir J. L. A. Simmons, G.C.B.,
Governor of Malta,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

No. 15.

ACTING GOVERNOR LIEUT.-COLONEL GRANT BLUNT, to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

MY LORD, St. Helena, April 26, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book Returns for 1885.

2. The revenue, estimated at 9,114*l.*, amounted to 9,049*l.* 8*s.* 5½*d.* A grant in aid of 2,050*l.* was received from the Imperial Treasury to defray the charges falling on the Colony on account of the Mail Service, which brought the total revenue to 11,099*l.* 8*s.* 5½*d.*

3. The expenditure, estimated at 10,261*l.* 12*s.* 2½*d.*, amounted to 13,098*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* The excess was caused by the payment of 2,426*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* due for Mail Service to end of 1884, and from a sum of only 676*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* having been provided for in the

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estimates for the carriage of mails during the year, whereas 1,540*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* was actually paid for this service.

4. *Public Debt.*— The public debt has been reduced to 5,750*l.*

5. *Legislation.*—The following Ordinances were passed by the Executive Council and have all, with the exception of No. 6, received the gracious confirmation and allowance of Her Majesty:—

1. To divide the parish of St. Helena into ecclesiastical districts.
2. Authorising expenditure not provided for in the estimates.
3. To prevent repealed Ordinances being revised.
4. To amend the Law relating to highways.
5. To extend the operation of Ordinance No. 1 of 1863.
6. Appropriation Ordinance for the estimates for 1886.
7. To extend Ordinance No. 1 of 1863 respecting disease among cattle.

No. 4. became necesssary owing to transfer of rural roads from the Colony to the War Department. No. 5 was brought forward on account of the prevalence of pleuro-pneumonia amongst the cattle in the Cape Colony. Cattle are frequently imported from that Colony, and hitherto have been allowed to be taken into the country unless showing signs of disease when landed. This practice was considered a source of danger to the Island stock, but the provisions of this Ordinance not being considered sufficiently stringent, No. 7 was brought forward instead.

5. *Civil Establishment.*—Lieut. Turton, R.E., the auditor, resigned on the 30th April, and was succeeded by Captain B. Bruno, D.A.C.G. of Ordnance. Mr. F. E. Fowler, Stipendiary Magistrate, was pensioned on 1st March on abolition of Office.

6. *Pension List.*—The Lord Bishop, Colonial Chaplain, Rev. J. Lambert, Master of the head school, and Mr. T. E. Fowler, Stipendiary Magistrate, were, on abolition of office, placed on the pension list. These pensions amount to 273*l.* 5*s.*, and with an increase of 6*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* allowed to the pension of E. Watson, make a total increase to the pension list of 279*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* William Hubbard in receipt of pension of 50*l.* 13*s.* died during the year.

7. *Foreign Consuls.*—Mr. J. M. McKnight arrived in the Colony on the 15th April, and assumed his duties of American Consul. Mr. T. E. Fowler was appointed American Vice-Consul.

8. *Population.*—The following were registered:—

	1884.	1885.
Births - - - - -	60	89
Marriages - - - - -	25	23
Deaths - - - - -	62	56

Of the deaths 10 were over 80 years of age.

9. *Savings Bank.*—Although the number of depositors was only 72 as compared with 82 in 1884 there was an increase in the amount of deposits.

10. *Education.*—The Government Head School was closed from the commencement of the year, and the late master was allowed to rent the school-house at a low rent to enable him to start a private school. This, however, I regret to say, has not proved a success, and he will shortly relinquish this building. The education obtained in the other Government schools appears to be all that the parents generally care to obtain, and the better classes send their children to England for education. The members of this class are not sufficient to retain the services of a competent master.

11. *Imports and Exports.*—The imports as compared with 1884 were as follows, viz.:—

	1884.	1885.
	£	£
From United Kingdom - - -	27,931	30,790
„ British Colonies - - -	11,200	8,501
„ Foreign Countries - - -	2,685	2,470
Total - - -	41,816	41,761

The exports to United Kingdom and British Colonies amounted to 1,772*l.* compared with 1,436*l.* in 1884. Of these 532*l.* was produce of the Colony (hides, skins, and wool), the remainder being principally old metal. In addition, 12,330*l.* of coffee, rice, and sugar was landed from vessels undergoing repairs and re-shipped, and 12,752*l.* of ambergris, bone, and oil was transhipped from American whalers and shipped to the United States of America.

12. SHIPPING.

Sailing Vessels Entered.

	1884.	1885.
British - - - -	21	24 with cargoes.
„ - - - -	2	1 in ballast.
Foreign - - -	22	12 with cargoes.
„ - - -	9	5 in ballast.

Sailing Vessels Cleared.

——	1884.	1885.
British - - - -	15	17 with cargoes.
„ - - -	4	5 in ballast.
Foreign - - -	8	4 with cargoes.

Steam Vessels Entered.

——	1884.	1885.
British - - - -	35	33 with cargoes.
„ - - - - -	3	Nil in ballast.

Steam Vessels Cleared.

——	1884.	1885.
British - - - -	Nil.	1 with cargo.

13. *Gaol and Prisoners.*

——	1884.	1885.
Committed - - - - -	83	54
Average daily number in prison - -	$4\frac{213}{365}$	$2\frac{103}{365}$

Criminal Statistics.

Total number of offences reported in 1884, 250; in 1885, 198. The returns show an absence of any serious crime.

14. *Hospital and Asylum.*—The hospital is ably managed by Dr. Watson, the Colonial Surgeon. Owing to the American whaling fleet having only visited this port once during the year, only 51 seamen were admitted as compared with 80 in 1884. Two males were admitted to the Lunatic Asylum and one male died during the year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANT BLUNT,
Lieut.-Col. R.E.

The Right Hon.
the Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 16.

Governor Sir J. M. ADYE, G.C.B., to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

MY LORD, Gibraltar, March 18, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Gibraltar for the year 1885, with a report by the Colonial Secretary thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ADYE,
General and Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c.

Finance.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of GIBRALTAR for the year 1885.

The actual revenue received during the year was Pts. 1,111,003·08 (44,052*l.*), being a decrease of Pts. 36,614·31 (1,451*l.*) when compared with that of the previous year, notwithstanding that the new tariff Order in Council was in force. The decrease is attributable to the quarantine restrictions imposed by all nations against Spain and Gibraltar during the prevalence of cholera which completely paralyzed trade in all branches and prevented vessels entering the port for several months.

A considerable decrease is shown on the duty for wines compared with that received in 1884; whilst, on the other hand, spirits show an increase. The cause is not far to seek, as during the prevalence of cholera in Gibraltar and the neighbourhood spirits were largely consumed in preference to the light wines of Spain.

The recently imposed duty on malt liquors brought in the sum of Pts. 22,275 (883*l.*).

The expenditure for the year, as compared with that of 1884 was less by Pts. 86,414 (3,426*l.*), owing chiefly to the decreased expenditure on public works. The saving on this head of service alone being Pts. 47,361 (1,877*l.*), whilst under the head of miscellaneous services a reduction of Pts. 58,073 (2,302*l.*) is shown when compared with the previous year.

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Notwithstanding the most rigid economy being practised by the authority of his Excellency the Governor, the expenditure compared with the net revenue shows an excess of Pts. 80,966 (3,210*l.*), which was partly met by the small balance of Pts. 6,231 (247*l.*) brought over from the previous year, by the realisation of the invested funds of the Colony and the repayment by the Savings Bank of advances made by the Colonial Treasury. In addition the Crown Agents advanced money which will be repaid during the first few months of 1886. Had not the quarantine restrictions existed the revenue of the Colony would have met the expenditure, and possibly there would have been a small surplus balance.

From the assets and liabilities sheet attached it will be observed that the assets amount to Pts. 78,702 (3,120*l.*), whilst the liabilities reached the sum of Pts. 70,395 (2,791*l.*), the balance in favour of the Colony being Pts. 8,307 (329*l.*).

Assets.

	Pts. Cts.	Pts. Cts.
Cash balance in Colonial Treasury -	5,166 · 19	
Outstanding ground rents - -	48,041 · 06	
Outstanding house rents - -	3,958 · 69	
Surplus revenue invested, Rs. 10,000 at Pts. 1·90 - - -	19,000 · 00	
Amount due by Imperial Government on account of advances made by Colonial Government in connexion with Zobeir Pasha's detention - - -	2,186 · 35	
Interest on invested funds, about -	350 · 00	
		78,702 · 29

Liabilities.

Amount due to Crown Agents on 31st December 1885, 1,818*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*	45,854 · 26	
Outstanding drafts on Crown Agents, 343*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* - - -	8,658 · 86	
Amount awarded in the arbitration between Colonial Government and Mr. A. Imossi - -	13,565 · 36	
Amount due by Colonial Government to Zobeir Pasha's interpreter	2,317 · 08	
Other liabilities except those for current services - - -	Nil.	
		70,395 · 56
Balance in favour of Government - -	Pts.	8,307 · 73

Port.

A considerable decrease in the number of vessels arriving in 1885 is noticeable when compared with the returns of 1884; but the reason for this is on account of the badness of trade and to the quarantine restrictions, to which allusion has been before made.

In 1884 6,146 vessels entered the port, representing 4,610,629 tons, whilst in 1885 5,410 vessels did, representing 4,019,534 tons, showing a decrease of 736 vessels and of 591,095 tons of shipping.

Crown Lands.—Ground and House Rent.

A very slight falling off in ground rents is noticeable, whilst the receipts on house rent show an excess of Pts. 6,032 (239*l.*) over that of the previous year, and it is satisfactory to mention that but few Crown properties now remain unlet, and it is believed that by subdividing several large properties the public will be induced to lease them on terms advantageous to the Government.

Public Works.

There were no works of any great magnitude commenced during the year, though several of importance were brought to completion.

The new pumping station in Southport Ditch, with condensers, to supplement the pumping station at the North Front, was practically completed and a great demand was made upon the condensers directly cholera appeared in the neighbourhood, as water was no longer permitted to be brought into the town from Spain.

The dredging of the harbour was satisfactorily completed and may be classified as a work of great public utility, as the approaches to the Waterport Wharf were becoming silted up, rendering the navigation of large lighters a tedious and somewhat difficult operation.

Waterport Wharf.—The formation of a separate passenger entrance through the fortifications was finished, and a long standing complaint has thus been obviated, whilst the danger to foot passengers entering or leaving the wharf of being run over by the continuous stream of carts and carriages has been removed.

Towards the close of the year his Excellency the Governor, with the approval of the Secretary of State, decided to extend the Waterport Wharf, which at the present time does not give sufficient accommodation to the public and the shipping community, its area being very restricted. The work of extension was commenced at the close of the year, and, when completed, will be one of lasting benefit to the shipping and general community.

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Legislation.

The following Laws were passed during the year:—

1. Corrected print of Revenue Order in Council, 1884, and Revenue Ordinance, 1884.
2. Ordinance to authorise arrest and detention of Zobeir Pasha.
3. Civil Hospital Ordinance, 1885.
4. Ordinance to make certain offences punishable on summary conviction.
5. Importation of Arms Ordinance, 1885.
6. Post Office Protection Ordinance.
7. Criminal Lunatics Ordinance.
8. Married Women's Property Ordinance.
9. Intestates Estates Ordinance.
10. Ordinance establishing a Post Office, and Order in Council giving effect to the same.
11. Aliens Order in Council.

On the completion of the rebuilding of the Civil Hospital, at a very large outlay, it was considered expedient to place the administration of the hospital on an entirely different basis, more especially as it was burdened with a heavy debt, which seriously interfered with its usefulness.

It was decided to pass an Ordinance enacting that the funds and bequests of each religious denomination should form one general fund for the maintenance and up-keep of the hospital without respect to creed, whilst a general controlling power over the affairs and the administration was given to the Governor. The measure, so far, appears a good one and the prospects of the hospital encouraging, as the institution is rapidly recovering its financial equilibrium.

An Ordinance was passed making certain offences punishable on summary conviction, and which, at the same time, extended powers to the police magistrate which were formerly limited by local enactment. The object was to consolidate into one Ordinance the principal offences which the law in England sanctions being dealt with by justices in a summary manner, the want of such an Ordinance having been long felt, whilst persons committing several offences of a minor character escaped punishment on account of the uncertainty which existed as to whether the police magistate could properly adjudicate upon them under the English statutes. In addition, provision was made for dealing with various offences embodied in numerous statutes as well as with nuisances, infectious disorders, places of public resort, weights and measures, and bastards, for which no adequate provisions existed.

The Aliens Order in Council was amended during the year, the main object of the present order being to confer upon the Governor the power to admit any alien persons to enter and remain in Gibraltar, a power which formerly the Governor did not possess.

Again, permission may be granted to female British subjects, natives of Gibraltar, who may marry aliens, to remain in Gibraltar, with their husbands on marriage as an indulgence and during good behaviour, although, without the Governor's permission, they cannot give birth to children in Gibraltar.

Ever since 1883 the attention of the Government has been directed to the Post Office, which was managed by the Imperial Government, through the Postmaster General, the Imperial Treasury taking the profits.

His Excellency the Governor having pointed out to the Secretary of State the extremely limited resources of the Colony, the financial condition of which was somewhat depressed, suggested that the Post Office should be handed over to the Colonial Government.

After a very considerable correspondence, the Imperial Treasury and the Postmaster General consented to hand over the Post Office to the Colony, and, accordingly, in December last, the Post Office Ordinance was passed, which enacted that the future control and management of the Post Office, together with all the rights, privileges, and profits, should be undertaken by the Local Government.

Education.

The average number of children in attendance during the year was 1,224 as compared with 1,367 for the previous year; a diminution of 143.

There is no doubt that the elementary poor schools are not sufficient for the population, and it is believed that there are some 2,000 children who attend no school and for whom there is no accommodation.

The award of grants has been made upon the basis of the modified code, which seems to have given satisfaction and to serve all practical purposes for the present.

A new Roman Catholic school, towards which the Government contributed 500*l.*, was completed.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of summary convictions before the Police Magistrate was 881, or 119 less than in 1884, and before the Captain of the Port 61, or 19 less than in 1884.

Fifteen cases were brought for trial before the Supreme Court one of murder. Verdicts for the Crown were returned in nine of the cases and in one the prisoner pleaded guilty. The circumstances of the murder case were as follows:—A man named Caetano, well known to be of weak intellect, murdered the Vicar-General, a well-known and highly respected priest of the Roman Catholic Church, by stabbing him.

With the exception of the murder case, the statistics of crime must be considered, highly creditable, more especially when it is

GIBRALTAR. remembered that the lower classes for a very considerable period were entirely without work and living entirely on charity.

Government Savings Bank.

There are no less than 6,450 depositors, and during the year the withdrawals reached the sum of Pts. 30,800 (1,221*l.*), attributable to the great stagnation of trade, which greatly affected the classes who made use of the bank.

Notwithstanding this, the financial condition of the bank is more satisfactory than it has hitherto been, and this may be fairly credited to the provisions of the "Amending Savings Bank Ordinance, 1884," and to the care now exercised that the investments in stock are made in securities bearing over 2½ per cent. It was recently the practice to invest Savings Bank moneys at 2½ per cent., whilst depositors received the like amount, and, naturally, the bank was not able to cover working expenses. The balance sheet shows a surplus of assets over liabilities amounting to about 278*l.*, the improvement being due to the more profitable investments made during the past year. On the whole, the condition of the bank may be considered decidedly satisfactory, and if in a year of great trade depression it is able to hold its own so effectually, under more favourable circumstances it may be expected to yield a material profit.

Public Health.

The public health has not been so satisfactory as is customary, but this remark must apply also to Spain. In the civil population there were 504 deaths, being an excess of 159 over that of the previous year. This high mortality was not due altogether to cholera disease, but the Officer of Health attributes it to "an "increased general morbific influence prevailing throughout the "year." The death rate for the year has been 27·4 per 1,000. This high rate is principally due to chest affections attributable to the unfavourable nature of the weather. There were only 23 deaths from cholera, giving a mortality of ·09 per 1,000, against 206 or 17·1 per 1,000 in the neighbouring town of Linea. The Government, it may be here mentioned, in conjunction with the Sanitary Commissioners, took every precaution on the outbreak of cholera, and it is entirely due to the excellent measures adopted that the disease did not develop into an alarming epidemic. The disease first made its appearance on the 6th of Angust, and the last case was on 13th October. The proportion of deaths was high to the number of persons attacked, it being 23 whilst the number of those seized was 31. The excessive mortality can be fairly attributed to the fact that the cases generally did not come under medical treatment until they had reached an advanced stage, and to the overcrowded condition of some of the premises before the sick were removed to the hospital, and the rest of the inmates to a temporary camp on the inundation.

General Remarks.

The chief trade of the town, namely, the coaling of steamers, received a great check, owing to the imposition of quarantine and the outbreak of cholera, only about 339,980 tons of coal being supplied to steamers, against 427,543 tons in the previous year. Thousands of labourers were thrown out of employment, and great distress prevailed. In the first instance, with the approval and support of his Excellency the Governor, the Colonial Secretary and Police Magistrate commenced to receive subscriptions to alleviate the distress, but the number of persons applying for relief augmented so rapidly that it was impossible to cope with the emergency, so a relief committee was constituted and a soup kitchen was inaugurated on the 10th of September by Sir John Adye. For two months no less than 1,962 rations of soup and 1,969 lbs. of bread were daily distributed, relief being extended to 1,071 families representing 4,094 persons. Of these no less than 1,073 were able-bodied men out of employment, mostly coal-heavers, boatmen, labourers, cartdrivers, and porters, the classes directly affected by the complete stagnation of trade. The subscriptions and donations amounted to 1,700*l.* the Lord Mayor of London and other influential persons all sending help, whilst the Governor of Malta forwarded 100*l.* in aid of the Maltese population residing here. Had not this relief been forthcoming it is difficult to say to what straits the inhabitants would not have been driven, and the donors to the fund can congratulate themselves that they contributed largely to alleviate the sufferings of their fellow beings.

In conclusion, it may be remarked that should no quarantine exist against Gibraltar during the ensuing year, the prospects of the Colony appear flourishing, whilst the finances will be considerably improved by the Post Office revenue, the attainment of which by his Excellency the Governor for the use of the Colony will always be remembered as the bright feature in a year of an exceptional depressed character.

(Signed) GIFFORD,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Gibraltar, 16th March 1886.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

No. 17.

Governor the Right Hon. LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS, G.C.B., to Colonel the Right Hon. F. A. STANLEY, M.P.

SIR, Sydney, November 4, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to enclose copy of a letter with its inclosures from Mr. Wilkinson, as also printed copies of a further report on Norfolk Island from that gentleman, which gives every information in regard to that Island which will be of great service to my successor, who can refer to him at any time for further advice.

2. I consider that Mr. Wilkinson has discharged his gratuitous duties at Norfolk Island with great zeal and ability.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.
Col. Stanley, M.P.
&c. &c.

Mr. HENRY WILKINSON to LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Norfolk Island,

MY LORD, July 28, 1885.

TAKING advantage of a passing vessel, I do myself the honour to inform your Excellency that I am getting on with my work here; and but for the short stay of this vessel (but a few hours) I should have been able to submit my report to your Excellency. I will, however, take the earliest opportunity of doing so.

Being now conversant with the affairs of the Island and the character of the people I regret to state that affairs are in a very bad state, and that therefore I intend, unless I receive instructions to the contrary, to remain here until the end of September, when my time will have expired, as I do not think it would be right or safe for me to leave until I am obliged to do so.

I am aware that my presence here is having a good influence as a deterrent to crime; but as I can only advise and not interfere with the internal administration of affairs, my power in checking crime is necessarily limited.

I may mention that a serious case of stabbing is pending, and, I fear, that if I were not here to direct the proceedings justice would be likely to fail; for, I believe that had I not urged the matter on the magistrate, it, like most other matters, would have

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been allowed to drop. The facts, so far as I can ascertain them before the case is tried, are these:—Two sisters of bad character were quarreling about a matter, the indecent details of which I refrain from giving, when the younger girl threw a scissors at the other, inflicting a serious wound in the arm; serious symptoms of locked-jaw supervened, and the sufferer has been for some two weeks confined to her room in a dangerous state. She is now recovering, and when she is able to appear and give evidence the case will be heard; and if the facts are as stated, the matter will be referred to your Excellency.

Within the last two weeks I have heard of no less than 12 cases of theft that have recently occurred; but it is exceedingly difficult to find out and bring the culprits to trial owing to the general characteristic desire to hush up such matters. I am of opinion that many other offences are kept dark lest I should become cognisant of them.

As the present office of Magistrate is useless, and as crime is so frequent, I do not think it is safe to leave the Island without some one who can and will act fearlessly and independently in bringing offenders to justice. Without such a person affairs cannot be mended, and the Government will be kept in continual ignorance of the true state of affairs.

For these reasons I deem it my duty to remain here as long as I can.

Awaiting the honour of further instructions from your Excellency at an early date,

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY WILKINSON,
Special Commissioner.

His Excellency the Right Hon.
Lord Augustus Loftus, G.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Mr. H. WILKINSON.

* * * * *

People here are subject to the same crimes and offences as other people, and have to be managed in the same way, and expect all the privileges of a large country. So it has been a matter of considerable study to meet their requirements and condense their management in such a manner as will come within a reasonable cost. I believe my regulations will do this with only two officers, viz., a Commissioner and a bailiff. One thing is most certain, that is, that the present form of government by an elected Magistrate will never do, and *must* be stopped at once, for there is neither justice nor order. Everybody is so closely related, and everybody lives in a "glass house," and is afraid to throw a stone, so that the Chief Magistrate *dare* not administer even justice, or he would be pounced upon at once, and is in a

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constant fear of how a decision will be regarded by others, who may, and would retaliate, if they do not approve.

Here, the whole system, and everything arising from it is rotten. The whole thing is a great falsehood from John Adams' time till now. And unless an immediate stop is put to this kind of thing, the consequences will be most disastrous. It really appears to me wonderful that a small community like this should have succeeded in so completely gulling the whole world into the belief that they are an isle of saints. I believe there is more immorality of all kinds here, according to population, than in any other civilized part of the world.

WHEREAS by an Order of the Queen in Council, dated the 24th day of June, 1856, power was given to the Governor of Norfolk Island, to make laws for the order, peace, and good government of the said Island. AND WHEREAS, Sir William Thomas Denison, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, then Governor of Norfolk Island, by writing under his hand, dated the 14th day of October 1857, did declare and enact that all Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations, which had been and were in force within the Island called Norfolk Island, were thereby repealed and annulled, so far as the said Governor was competent to repeal them, and did enact and declare certain other Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations in the said writing set out. AND WHEREAS the said Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations have been in certain particulars altered and varied, and additional Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations have been duly made for the order, peace, and good government of Norfolk Island. THIS, WHEREAS it is expedient that certain of the Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations, now in force in Norfolk Island, shall be repealed or altered, and that additional Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations shall be made for the order, peace, and good government of the said Island. NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR AUGUSTUS WILLIAM FREDERICK SPENCER LOFTUS (commonly called Lord Augustus Loftus), Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, a member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND ITS DEPENDENCIES, AND GOVERNOR OF NORFOLK ISLAND, DO, in pursuance of the power and authority vested in me in this behalf, DECLARE AND ENACT as follows, that is to say :—

1. That such, and so much of the Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations now in force in Norfolk Island, which are herein-after mentioned to be repealed, and that the several Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations, which are hereby declared to be in place of the repealed Laws, Ordinances and Regulations, and also all, every and any additional Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations, herein-after set out, shall be and the same are hereby declared to be in force in the said Island from this date, that is to say :—

1. Section three of the said Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations of the 18th day of October 1857 is hereby repealed, and in lieu

thereof the following shall be the Law, Ordinance, and Regulation in force; that is to say— NORFOLK ISLAND.

The Chief Magistrate must be a person resident in the said Island; he must be the owner in fee simple in possession of a landed estate in the said Island, and he must have attained at the time of his election the age of 40 years. He shall be eligible for re-election provided that he shall not hold office for more than two years consecutively.

2. Section five of the said Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations is hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof the following Law, Ordinance, and Regulation shall be in force from this date, that is to say—

The election of the Chief Magistrate and Councillors shall be by ballot, and shall take place on the day after Christmas Day in each year, unless that day shall fall on a Sunday, in which event the election shall take place on the Monday following.

3. Section nine of the said Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations is hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof the following Law, Ordinance or Regulation shall be in force, that is to say—

The Chief Magistrate and Councillors shall enter upon the duties of their respective offices on the first day of January in each year, on which day the Bishop or Chaplain will administer to each of them in the presence of the people the Oath of Allegiance and of Office as herein-after specified.

4. Section 32 of the said Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations is hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof the following Law, Ordinance, and Regulation shall be in force, that is to say—

The father or in case of his death or absence from the Island the mother of any child or children between the ages of 7 or 14 years, or other the guardian or guardians of any such child or children, including in this term any persons or person having the custody and care of any such child or children, shall compel the daily attendance at school upon all school days of every such child until such child shall have attained the age of 14 years, excepting in the case of sickness or family bereavement. Provided that in case of bereavement the absence shall not exceed four days, and in case of sickness, if the absence exceeds two days, the fact of such sickness must be certified in writing by the doctor, which certificate shall be at once handed to the teacher. The parent or such guardian of any child making default to attend school except for the causes above specified shall be liable to a fine of sixpence a day for each child for each day that such child shall be so absent from school.

5. Section 33 of the said Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations is hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof the following Law, Ordinance, and Regulation shall be in force.

The father, or, in case of his death or absence from the Island, the mother or guardian of every child between the ages of 7 years and 14 years shall weekly and every week pay in respect of each and every child between the said ages to the Chief Magistrate a sum of three pence per week, to be by such Magistrate applied

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in and about the payment of a teacher or teachers of the said children.

6. The ministers of the Melanesian Mission Establishment shall at all times hereafter be entitled to and have the same rights as the other ministers of the community in regard to all questions relating to Government reserves, but they will not be eligible for the office of Chief Magistrate or Councillor, nor will they have the right of voting at the election of those officers, nor shall they be reckoned as elders within the meaning of the Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations now in force in the said Island.

7. When at any time hereafter the Governor of Norfolk Island shall make grant of land in favour of any person who is not at the time of the making of such grant, a member of the community, the grantee shall by virtue of such grant become a member of the community.

8. No sale or conveyance of land in the Island shall be made to any person or persons not being a member or members of the community without the sanction in writing of the Governor of Norfolk Island first obtained, and any person desiring to purchase land must also previously to such purchase being made be elected to be a member of the community as provided in the Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations, regulating the election of members of the community in force for the time being, and all deeds, documents, matters and things done or attempted to be made, executed, or done in contravention of the Regulations are hereby declared to be void and of no effect.

9. It shall not be lawful for a father and son or for two brothers at the same time to hold office as Magistrate and Councillor or as Councillors.

10. Whereby or under the decision or judgment of the Chief Magistrate or of Magistrates, or of a jury under the rules and regulations in force in Norfolk Island, any fine or fines or sums of money, costs, damages or expenses shall be or become payable if same shall not be duly paid by the person or persons decided and adjudged to be liable to pay the same, it shall be lawful for the Chief Magistrate in his discretion to issue a warrant under his hand and seal directed to a person in the said warrant named, authorising and requiring him to seize and take possession of all, any, or every the goods, chattels, and effects of the person so decided and adjudged to be liable to pay the said fine or fines, sum or sums of money, costs, damages and expenses, and within such time as in the said warrant is mentioned to cause the same to be sold by public auction for the best price or prices that can be obtained for the same, and upon receipt of the money arising from such sale or sales to pay over and deliver the same into the hands of the Chief Magistrate, who is hereby directed to apply the same in paying the reasonable expenses of executing the said warrant, and of the said sale, and to pay and apply the balance or so much thereof as shall be necessary in and about the payment and satisfaction of the said fine or fines, sum or sums of money, costs, damages, and expenses decided to be payable as before-

mentioned, any surplus after such payments as aforesaid to be paid to the person whose goods, chattels or effects shall have been so seized and sold as aforesaid.

11. If under a warrant issued as herein-before mentioned sufficient goods, chattels, and effects of the person liable to pay the said fine or fines, sum or sums of money, costs, damages, and expenses shall not be found by the person to whom the said warrant shall have been directed, it shall be lawful for the Chief Magistrate from time to time thereafter to issue another or other warrants until the whole amount of the said fine or fines, sum or sums of money, costs, damages or expenses shall have been realised and received under or by virtue of the said warrant or warrants. But it is hereby expressly declared that it shall not be lawful for any land or any interest in land to be sold or attempted to be sold under any warrant or warrants issued under this or the preceding section.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand at Government House, Sydney, in the colony of New South Wales this thirteenth day of August in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS,
Governor.

HENRY WILKINSON, Esq., J.P., Special Commissioner, Norfolk Island, to His Excellency The Right Hon. LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS, P.C., G.C.B., &c., Governor of Norfolk Island.

MY LORD, Norfolk Island, August 20, 1885.

IN ACCORDANCE with your Excellency's instructions, dated 20 March, 1885, I have resided at Norfolk Island for five months, during which time I have been occupied in making inquiries into and observations on all matters relating to the affairs of that Colony. While doing so, I have strictly observed your Excellency's directions to abstain from interference with the internal administration of the Colony, to assist the Magistrate in all matters with my advice when required, and to cultivate friendly relations with all parties on the Island.

The result of these inquiries and observations I have now the honor to report, together with such suggestions as to the future governance of the Colony as appear to me to be necessary, and which I believe will commend themselves as embracing a policy absolutely necessary for its safety and prosperity.

While prosecuting these researches, I have left no stone unturned which would enable me to arrive at the true state of affairs; and although I have experienced no little difficulty—owing to the peculiar character of the people—in eliciting facts, I have so far succeeded as to be able to lay before your Excellency a true statement of the affairs of the Island as they now stand.

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The very loose manner in which things have been carried on since the arrival of the Pitcairn community has allowed their affairs to drift into a deplorably bad state. This may be accounted for in a great measure by their ignorance, on their arrival, of the habits of and the use of the appliances of civilized life, which must have rendered them incapable of fully taking advantage of the resources so liberally placed in their hands; and furthur, by a habit they possess of concealing any fact which could be interpreted to their disparagement, and in this way keeping the authorities in ignorance of the true state of affairs. Therefore it is only by my lengthened residence with them that I have been able to know them and understand their affairs.

I propose dealing with the following subjects in their order, viz.:—

1. Moral and social condition of the people.
2. Present laws, and proposed new laws and regulations.
3. Proposed system of enforcing penalties.
4. Land, and regulation of stock.
5. Public works.
6. Harbours and moorings.
7. Public records.
8. Wills and intestate estates.
9. Government buildings.
10. Proposed revenue.
11. Timber regulations.
12. School.
13. Intoxicating liquors.
14. Sanitary condition and health.
15. New settlers.
16. Long-sentence prisoners and lunatics.

Moral and Social condition.

This is perhaps the least understood, the most important, and the most difficult subject to deal with. It is not understood because, I believe, before my residence here, no one whose duty it was to bring to light the real state of the Colony has remained long enough to find it out. It is to me a somewhat painful task, but I shall be deterred by no considerations from stating the truth.

In referring to these people I respectfully beg your Excellency to understand that I speak of them generally as a body, among whom there are many very worthy exceptions.

The people are all exceedingly kind and hospitable to strangers; indeed I have sometimes felt considerably embarrased by their kind attentions to me. They have an apparently innocent manner of address, are exceedingly anxious to please on all occasions, and have such a way of referring to their past and present life as would lead strangers to believe that it must be passed in guileless innocence. They are very careful to attend to all the outward observances of religion, never missing a service or religious

meeting; and the adults never omit participation in the higher offices and sacraments. In all this they may be credited with the belief that they are really performing all that is necessary to constitute them a religious and moral people, and in this way deceive themselves as well as strangers who have not time or opportunity to discover the truth. But all this outward show of virtue, together with the habit of concealing faults, is a part of their education since they have been a community. In support of this fact, I may instance a custom which prevailed at Pitcairn, if not during their early residence here, of inflicting a heavy penalty on any of their number who exposed to strangers facts which might be used for their disparagement. Such a system must have engendered duplicity of character, falsehood, and various forms of deceit.

Their morals, are, as a rule, very loose; such offences as theft, fornication, adultery, and perjury are frequent; while the lesser faults of lying, laziness, and deceit are simply common when not habitual. Generally, when a person is found to have committed an offence, it is endeavoured on all sides to keep it quiet, lest a stranger or the outside world should be aware that such things are possible in the community, and it is when concealment is impossible that offences are brought to trial. As a rule, they will always endorse each others statements, even at the expense of truth, and will not hesitate to use any means to maintain the character for virtue which they have acquired, and which has been so profitable to them.

The liberal manner in which the people of England and the Government have from time to time supplied their wants at Pitcairn, subsequently removing them to Norfolk Island, and giving them everything and more than was necessary for their use, has engendered in them a spirit of pauperism which will be difficult to overcome, for they now look to Government for the gratuitous supply of nearly everything they want except food and clothing. It requires but ordinary observation to see how badly this liberality has been abused.

I respectfully submit that the time has come when a change must be made, or disastrous consequences will ensue,—when they must be taught that they can no longer go on in this indolent, slipshod manner,—that they must support themselves and make their little Colony self-supporting—and that laws must be observed, and justice and truth prevail. I do not think that the Colony can be made to support itself all at once, but I firmly believe that, with the assistance of the Home Government for (say) five years, it may be brought about, and that before the expiration of that time it would be more than self-supporting. I shall endeavour to show, further on, how a present revenue can be fairly imposed.

I submit that the first and most necessary step is the appointment of an officer to reside in the Colony and there to administer law and justice, neither of which will be observed unless such an officer be sent. It will be seen by the proposed laws and regulations (Appendix A) that such an officer is contemplated and a form

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of government recommended which, it is believed, will fully meet the requirements of the Colony for many years hence, and which I respectfully and earnestly hope, in the cause of justice and humanity, may meet with early and favourable consideration. It has been suggested by some of the residents that a visiting officer will suffice ; but in such a case the present state of affairs would be likely to continue : it is only by a resident officer whose constant observation can be brought to bear on them that these evils will be corrected.

Present laws, and proposed new laws and regulations.

The present simple laws and regulations may have acted well when the community was in its infancy, but in its present condition they are totally inadequate. It will be seen that penalties in the shape of fines are specified for various offences, but there is no way of enforcing them except by sending the offender to perform some public work. This plan is found not to answer, for if a man be set to do such work it is never properly performed, and if he chooses to defy the authorities and refuse to work, there are no means of compelling him to do it. In short, there is no final determination in the law. Another great defect is the want of some provision for the recovery of debts.

These defects have been the more apparent by the indifferent manner in which the laws have been administered, and which may be attributable to the close relationship existing between all the mmbers of the community, and to other characteristics already pointed out. By the proposed new laws (Appendix A.) it will be seen that, with the exception of a few laws to suit peculiar local conditions, those now in force in New South Wales are recommended; but the system of enforcing the penalties enjoined is necessarily modified to meet the limited circumstances of this small Colony. It has been a matter of study and care to so arrange them as to condense their administration within the smallest compass and the smallest cost consistent with the upholding of justice and punishment of crime. To avoid the large expense necessarily attaching to a gaol, it is proposed that, with the exception of a lock-up which can be looked after by the bailiff, and only to be used in extreme cases, not to have any such establishment for the present, but for the fines and other penalties to be enforced by labour on a Government farm, under the immediate supervision of the bailiff, and which farm, if properly managed, may be made a profitable source of revenue. Owing to the great scarcity of money, fines can rarely be paid in any other way than by labour; therefore, to have the work carried on in one place under proper supervision, and to make it at the same time remunerative, I propose the farm system, which is the only way I can see of effectually exacting penalties in the present state of the Colony. It may also be optional for persons owing to the Government moneys other than fines, to work them out in the same manner on the farm at

the rate of 5s. per day; but in all cases a fair day's work of eight hours must be rigidly exacted; and, in the case of debtors, no man should be compelled to work more than three days in any week, in order that he may have the remaining time for attending to his own garden for the support of his family; for, on this island, if a man worked but fairly three days in the week it would, in most cases, be ample for the support of himself and family.

Regulations are provided dealing with the revenue and expenditure, and all Government work.

Laws are also proposed for the recovery of debts. I am informed that nearly every one in the Colony is so involved in debt as to be entirely in the hands of the storekeepers, to whom their produce and whale oil are mortgaged long before they are obtained; and, what is worse, that many have by false pretences mortgaged their produce to two or three stores at the same time. Under the present laws there is no way to punish such dishonesty.

For the recovery or wiping-out of debts which are now owing, and for which the storekeepers are in a great measure to blame, it may be well to make special regulations; but for those which may in future be incurred, the same laws which apply in other colonies should be carried out here; and so some idea of the responsibility for debt may be taught—a responsibility of which they now appear to be alarmingly ignorant.

There are other regulations dealing with stock, timber, wills, &c., &c.

This proposed new form of government may be briefly summarized as follows: —

The Governor is the head and centre of government, from whom all laws, regulations, and instructions emanate. The resident Commissioner is appointed by the Governor, to whom alone he is responsible. The election of four Councillors, two by the community, one by the Bishop of Melanesia, and one nominated by the Commissioner, subject to the Governor's approval, will allow each section on the island to be fairly represented; the influence of the two community Councillors being balanced by that of those nominated by the Bishop and the Commissioner. This is an important matter, especially in view of the further occupation of the land by new settlers. The discussion of new or important matters by the elected Assembly will inform the Governor of the fair opinion of the community on those affairs.

Fines and their enforcement.

(*Appendix B.*)

The amount of fines now owing is 78*l.* 19*s.* It is significant that of this sum, 78*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* are fines inflicted for fornication. This large proportion can be accounted for when it is considered that other offences are generally hushed up, when possible, and that fornication is punished when the condition of the female or the birth of a child prevent concealment, and the paternity has to be charged to some one. The law relating to fornication was

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approved 5 December, 1874. Its effect may be judged by the fact that of the children born on the island since that time seven have been illegitimate; and of the thirty-six marriages which have taken place during the same period, twenty were what are called "forced marriages," *i.e.*, the marriage was necessary to render legitimate the birth of the expected child.

For the enforcement of fines I have suggested the farm system. The site I propose for the farm is part of a Government reserve at the township, shown on the accompanying map* (Appendix C). This piece of land is exceedingly fertile, and in all ways suitable for the purpose, having a constant stream of water running through it, and being near to the Court-house. The farm I propose placing under the supervision of the bailiff, who would see that the proper work was done; or if the defaulter refused to do the work, it would be in the power of the Commissioner, after cautioning him to lock him up until he did choose to work.

There are six cells connected with the Court-house, which have been more or less injured by the removal of the doors, flagging, &c.; four of them have doors, and might easily be put in such order as to be available when necessary. The old guard-room attached to the Court-house is in good order, and could be used as a work-room in which female defaulters could work out their fines, &c., under the superintendence of the bailiff's wife; such work might include making hats, baskets, clothing, and other women's work. The old officers' quarters adjoining the Court-house would form a convenient residence for the bailiff; and as there is considerably more accommodation than he would require, I propose that the four front rooms on the ground floor, to which there is a separate entrance hall, be appropriated for a surgery, waiting-room, and officers of the medical man. I may mention that Dr. Metcalfe quite approves of this plan. In this way Government House would be available for the occupation of the Commissioner, and the Court-house, surgery, and all other offices connected with the Government would be within one enclosure and in the immediate care of the bailiff.

Land and Stock.

By the accompanying statement (Appendix D.), it will be seen that 3,567 acres are held on deed of grant by seventy-six members of the community. When the community arrived here each head of a family was granted 50 acres, and it became the custom to grant 25 acres each to the man and woman at all marriages; subsequently this area was reduced to 12½ acres each on marriage, and latterly grants have been stopped altogether. It is significant that, of the 3,567 acres held by members of the community, there are but 150 acres under cultivation; the remainder of the granted land being in most cases unfenced and allowed to run wild. This open land is much covered by a scrub of rank and useless bushes,

* Not printed.

the result of neglect, and which very much interferes with its grazing capabilities. The people have a regulation intended to compel stock-owners to clear the land, but so little is done in this way that I estimate that one-third of the Island is covered and rendered useless by this scrub. A law is proposed (No. 51) to compel land-owners to keep their unfenced land free of this undergrowth. I have not been able to ascertain what area of land was under cultivation when the community arrived here; but from what I can see of the existing evidences of cultivation, I am led to infer that there must have been at least ten times more than at present.

There are 4,599 acres of land (belonging to the Crown) unoccupied, which I respectfully recommend, under proper regulations, to the younger members of the community who have no land, but who wish to form homes for themselves; and to other approved persons who it may be desirable to have settle on the land.

I find that indeed nearly all the landmarks, surveyors' pegs, &c., are lost. Some of the pegs have been replaced with rudely marked stones roughly placed in the ground, but which cannot be considered reliable.

The island was surveyed and divided into blocks by a party of sappers in 1850. They marked the land with pegs, but made no reference trees; consequently the exact position of decayed pegs cannot be found.

I have discovered two of the trigonometrical stations formed by the surveyors, and have built cairns over them for their preservation. These stations will form a base-line by which a surveyor can fix the various points and correctly find the boundary lines. It will be a very necessary and not a difficult matter to run these lines afresh and to permanently mark them; by doing which a number of disputes would be settled, and future bickerings regarding boundaries avoided.

The accompanying map* (Appendix C.) compiled from such data as was available on the island, shows in various tints the occupied land, with the name of the owner, the land applied for to lease, and that sold or bequeathed, but which has yet to be divided amongst the purchasers or legatees.

The statement (Appendix D.) shows in tabulated form the name of the owner, the area in possession, numbers of portions, date of grants, and the manner in which land has been transferred since granted.

In cases where land has been sold, exchanged, or bequeathed, no fresh deeds have been obtained, nor can they be obtained on the Island. I submit that some early arrangement to supply them is necessary.

Stock.—It will be seen by accompanying statement (Appendix E.) that there are now on the Island 1,310 cattle, 257 horses, and 1,967 sheep. The cattle and most of the horses are in a very miserable condition from scarcity of feed, brought about by allowing the land to become over-run with useless scrub, by overstocking, and

* Not printed.

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by the indiscriminate running of cattle and sheep together, it being a well-known fact that cattle will not thrive on land over-run with sheep. At present butter is hardly procurable, and milk very scarce. To remedy this state of things, I would propose a regulation to prevent persons running more cattle or sheep (except on enclosed land) than the land granted or leased to them will reasonably carry, unless they pay an assessment fee for each of such animals in excess. Thus, allowing three acres for each head of cattle and one acre for a sheep, a person holding 50 acres of grazing land would be allowed to keep seventeen head of cattle, or an equivalent in sheep. For every head of cattle or sheep which his unfenced land allows him to run, an assessment fee could be charged as follows:—Cattle, 3*s.* per head per annum; and sheep, 1*s.* per head per annum. The revenue derivable in this way, under present circumstances, would amount to 175*l.* 16*s.* per annum. (*See* Appendix E.)

Hogs, which are a great nuisance when at large, should only be allowed when enclosed within a proper fence. The people have just passed a bye-law to this effect.

Public Works.

It is the custom for all males between the ages of 18 and 60 to give 24 days in the year for repairs to roads, bridges, and other public works. The labour is valued at 4*s.* per day for each man. As there are about 100 men available for this work, the aggregate value of it ought to be 480*l.* per annum. This system is carried out formally, but not really, for the various gangs of men do not work one-third of the time, which I am informed is generally passed in more agreeable occupations. The roads, bridges, &c. are in very fair order, although there is great room for improvement. I am of opinion that if one reliable man with a horse and cart were regularly employed, with the occasional assistance of another man when required, the whole work could be satisfactorily carried out at a cost of not more than 120*l.* per annum. If this plan were adopted, a small road-tax might be levied to meet the expense. Under the present system, the work pretended to be performed by this gratuitous labour is simply ludicrous.

Harbour, Moorings, &c

I have taken the opinion of all the nautical men resident on the Island, as well as that of Captain Bongard, of the missionary schooner "Southern Cross," and Captain Taw, an old trader to Norfolk Island, which is that the only place where a harbour could be constructed is Ball Bay; but the cost of making a breakwater across it would be so great as to place it quite beyond the reach of present circumstances. At Cascade Bay the anchorage is good, and there is a good "get away" from there in case of change of

wind, &c.; but at Sydney bay the anchorage is treacherous, where many anchors and cables have been lost; besides this, there is no "get away" for a sailing-vessel in case of sudden change of wind, for in such a case a vessel would be likely to drift ashore before her anchor could be got up and sail made, and she would therefore have to slip her cable in order to get out, thus losing both anchor and cable. Here it is necessary that good moorings should be placed. It is proposed that the moorings should consist of two anchors of 16 cwt. each, placed 90 fathoms apart, and connected by a chain, from the middle of which should spring the mooring chain, supported by a buoy. This would afford safe mooring to any vessel in all ordinary weather. The cost of these moorings would be about 200*l.* without the buoy. There is a large buoy at Lord Howe Island not in use; it might be removed to Norfolk Island and used for this purpose. There is always a landing either at Sydney Bay or Cascade Bay, and the opinion is that moorings at the latter place will meet all requirements for the present. There would be some expense in keeping these moorings in repair, which could be met by a fee for their use, which is proposed to be as follows:—For vessels under 70 tons, 5*s.* per day; over 70 tons and under 100 tons, 10*s.* per day; over 100 and under 200 tons, 15*s.* per day—and so on until vessels of 1,000 tons would be charged 2*l.* per day. The revenue derived from this would more than cover the cost of their continual examination and repair.

Public Records.

Beyond a roughly-kept Island register, the registers connected with land and wills, and the register of births, deaths, and marriages no records have been kept. I collected such letters and despatches as had been kept, and they were in the most complete confusion. However, I reduced them to something like order, and made a list of them for future reference when necessary; but it was evident that many were missing, and I could not avoid the conclusion that some, even those containing instructions from the Governors, had not been acted on. The accounts appear to have been kept in the same loose manner, some of them being to me quiet unintelligible.

Register of deeds of grant.—I called in and examined every deed of grant on the Island, for the purposes of ascertaining and marking on the map the positions of the portions of land to which they refer, and of comparing the deeds with the register. I find that the deeds are correctly copied into the register, with the exception of the diagram of the land in the margin of the deeds which has not been copied in any case.

Register of wills.—This book has been constructed with two forms of will on each page, evidently for the purpose of making out the original will on one form and retaining the other, or

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"butt," as a duplicate. This has not been done in all cases, for in some cases two wills occur on one page, and these are the originals; in other cases the wills have been cut out and no copies retained; while in others the will of one person is found written on the back of that of another. In one important case the will is not dated, and in others no reference is made in the register to them; this is notably the case in the will of Peggy Christian.

Register of absolute sales.—The same want of system is noticeable in this and all other land registers, and they are therefore of little value in their present shape.

Many of the errors can be rectified if the matter is taken in hand at once, while the persons concerned are on the Island. I would have endeavoured to put them right myself, but I lacked authoity to interfere with the books in the absence of the Registrar.

Mr. Rossiter, the Registrar and late schoolmaster, has, I am told, always been regarded as an able and strict man of business; but, Dr. Metcalf informs me, for the last few years he has suffered from a derangement which greatly interfered with his memory and business capacity, necessitating a complete rest, for which purpose he has gone to England for twelve months. This malady may account for the errors in the registers. The rest he is taking may happily restore him and fit him to resume his duties.

Mr. Rossiter was appointed Government Agent and schoolmaster twenty-six years ago, and the latter office he worthily filled until last year, when his failing health compelled him to retire.

The registers had better, however, be given to the charge of some person who can look after them properly. If the proposed resident officer were appointed, it would become part of his duty.

In the meantime, I have sealed up the books and left them in charge of Mrs. Rossiter; and I have supplied Mr. Charles Nobbs with the necessary formulæ, and have requested him to make out any wills and agreements with regard to the sale of land, &c., and to retain copies of all such documents until your Excellency's pleasure is known regarding the matter.

Register of births, deaths, and marriages.—A proper registry is being made of these events by Mr. Isaac Robinson; but no formal register having been supplied to him, the information is kept in a small manuscript book never intended for the purpose.

Church register.—I have carefully gone through the Church register, which, till 1st January 1883, was the only register of births, deaths, and marriages on the Island. I find that in the registering of marriages the full names of the parties are not always given, nor are the full names of the parents given in registering births, but frequently the names used are those by

which the persons were best known at the time of registry; so it often occurs that the name of a man when married is entered with the simple initials of one or more of his Christian names, whereas in registering the birth of his children he is only known by one of those Christian names, and that frequently is not the first. As the number of surnames on the Island is so very limited, there is no way of distinguishing a man unless his full name be given; and it would therefore become impossible to trace the genealogy of a person should it be necessary to do so in a few years' time. I beg to recommend that a new register be made out, giving the full names of all parties, while the information can be obtained.

While on this subject, I may be allowed to draw attention to the following question: whether the missionary or other clergymen here are authorised or have been authorised to solemnize marriages. I am informed that a case occurred in Fiji a few years back in which the ownership of property was involved; and it was decided that the marriage was not legal, as it had only been solemnized by an unauthorised missionary clergyman. The consideration of this question may prevent complications in the future.

I respectfully recommend that, when an officer is appointed to the Island, proper account books and registers may be furnished, together with an iron safe and a copying-press. The latter is very much required, for hitherto no copies of letters dispatched from the island have been kept. The number and description of books required will depend in a great measure upon the system of government adopted; but I am of opinion that the following will be found necessary: a large Letts Diary in which should be recorded the daily events; a register of letters received; a letter-book for copying letters despatched; a ledger of revenue and expenditure; a ledger of fines and other dues, showing on the credit side how each item has been liquidated; a general day book; minute books, &c.

Wills and Intestate Estates.

Wills are required to be registered and copies retained by the Registrar, but there is no officer before whom they can be proved, or who can authorise the executors to administer and, when land has been bequeathed, to see to a proper division of it. A reference to the accompanying statement of land left by deceased persons and land sold by persons leaving the Island (Appendix F.) will show the necessity for something to he done in this regard. See also proposed laws, number 51 to 57, which are suggestions for dealing with this matter and to some provision for intestate estates.

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Government Buildings.

Besides Government House there are 28 Government houses in the township, all occupied by members of the community, and for which no rent is charged. The old gaol buildings and prisoners' barracks and offices are in ruins, much of the material having been removed and used for other purposes. There remains, however, in the existing walls some valuable cut stone, which may be useful for the future repair of other buildings, but can only be obtained by pulling down the walls, all the material of value which could be easily got at having been taken away. The commissariat store, now in use as a church, is in good order. The military barracks, in use as a school and Court-house, are in fair order, although some stone-work in the front of the building requires repair and should be seen to at once, or it may become dangerous to the school children in attendance. The ruins of the old military barracks were in a very dangerous state, having been gutted of all their timber and internal support; and, being old and decayed the walls, three stories high, threatened to fall during any high wind. At a meeting of the community the Episcopal Methodists were allowed the use of these ruins as a church, provided that they removed the upper stories and roofed in the remainder. They have since pulled down the dangerous part of the walls, and are preparing to put on a roof, which will convert these ruins into a safe and sightly edifice. A large store is on the beach, near the pier. It is a good deal out of repair, but could be easily converted into a suitable place to receive the produce of the Government farm. For the 28 houses privately occupied a rent might be charged, except for that occupied by the widow of the late Rev. G. H. Nobbs, which should perhaps be allowed to her during her lifetime. These rents would be a very good and fair source of revenue. (*Vide* Appendix G.) The houses are, with few exceptions, in fair order; but only such repairs as could not be avoided have been made by the occupants, many of whom have held them free of rent for 29 years. Government house is in fair order and weather-proof, but the walls and woodwork will require considerable repair before the house would be comfortably habitable. The stables and coach-house attached are roofless, and the enclosing fences are all down.

On the arrival of the community there were a windmill and a watermill in good order. Twenty-six years ago a miller was sent from England, who for a time worked the watermill. Now both these mills are in complete ruins; some of the machinery has been removed and converted to other and private uses, and what was left is rendered useless by exposure.

Nearly all the buildings tell of a want of reasonable care, and many of them of ruthless destruction.

A system has obtained here, which I am of opinion should be at once stopped, of persons who, having resided for a lengthened time themselves in a Government house, when they leave imagine

that they have a claim over the property, and lease it to others as though it were their own; in this way making money out of Government property. Any moneys accruing from use of Government property should go to the revenue.

Proposed Revenue.

The revenue proposed to be raised amounts approximately to 623*l.* 0*s* 8*d.*, and I am of opinion that the several items can be fairly imposed without undue pressure on any class of persons. (*See* Appendix G.)

There are 28 Government houses now occupied rent-free, for which a small rent might be charged: this I have estimated at about 12 per cent. of what I believe would be the rent of similar properties in any suburb of Sydney.

The assessment on stock is estimated on the return of cattle and sheep running at large during 1884.

The Customs duties are estimated according to the tariff of New South Wales in 1884, and only on the imports of tea, coffee, sugar, wine, beer, spirits and tobacco, made by three storekeepers, the "Mission," and the Chief Magistrate, in 1884. Other imports of these articles were made privately, but I could get no return of them; consequently the amount is lower than it would have been if they had been taken into consideration.

The fines paid by labour on the Government farm would, I believe, realise equal to 100*l.* per annum.

The sale of timber is estimated on what would, I believe, be the number of trees required to meet the demands for timber in one year, charging for each tree the average price of 1*l.* It is hoped that by charging a fair price for each tree the demand may be checked.

Timber.

There is, I believe, an unnecessary destruction of iron-wood, pine, and other valuable trees on Crown lands; which, if allowed to continue unchecked, will entirely denude the Island of its valuable timber. At the present time, all that a person has to do is to make application to the Chief Magistrate, and then to select and cut any tree he considers suitable for his purpose. In the case of pine trees only the lower part of the trunk is used, the remainder, owing to its knotty character, being considered unsuitable for splitting or sawing into boards. One pine tree will produce from 20,000 to 100,000 shingles, according to its size—the general run averaging about 40,000.

It is proposed that for the use of each tree on leased or unoccupied Crown lands special permission must be obtained, and a purchase fee charged of not less than 10*s.* nor more than 2*l.*, at the discretion of the Officer administering the Government; also, that after cutting down and removing the required timber the

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purchaser of the tree shall be required to plant near its place a young tree of the same kind, and to place around it a fence sufficient to keep off cattle. The fence could be easily constructed of the boughs and waste timber of the fallen tree; and the young trees could be gratuitously supplied out of the Government farm, where it would be easy to keep a supply of healthy plants for the purpose. I am informed that palm trees are still being destroyed for making brooms, notwithstanding your Excellency's instructions to the contrary.

School.

I made an inspection of the school. It is controlled by the Magistrate, and is in the conduct of a teacher and an assistant teacher, with one pupil teacher. The roll contains 104 names, the average attendance for the last six months being 91½ per cent. The efficiency of the pupils, their orderly manner and general bearing, struck me as being of the most satisfactory kind. The principal teacher, Mr. William Quintall, is educationally a qualified person for his important office, as well as being a man of high religious and moral character; while Mr. Alfred Nobbs, the assistant, is of equally good character, and appears to be well qualified in other respects for the subordinate office which he holds. The services of another pupil-teacher are said to be required, but at present there are no means of paying the salary (12*l.* per annum). I am of opinion that it would be advantageous to vest the management of the school in a Board of two elected persons and the Magistrate or resident officer (if appointed), which Board could be held responsible to the Governor for its actions.

Intoxicating Liquors.

At present intoxicating liquors can only be obtained from the Magistrate, with the doctor's order, and none are allowed to be landed without the permission of the Magistrate. I believe that these regulations are sometimes disregarded when whaling or trading vessels are about, for I have heard of people obtaining drink from them. Such a case has not come under my own observation, nor have I seen a single person intoxicated on the island, although I believe that many of the people are inclined to the consumption of intoxicants when they can get them. I am strongly of opinion that stringent regulations are necessary in regard to this matter; for the general moral tone being somewhat low, even under existing circumstances, if the unchecked use of intoxicants were permitted the effect would be disastrous.

Health and sanitary condition.

A report on the above subject by Dr. Metcalfe was submitted to your Excellency 188 , a copy of which I append. (Appendix H.)

New Settlers.

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It would be of great benefit to the Colony if a few families of good character and industrious habits were allowed to settle on land leased to them for a lengthened term; but I am of opinion that the introduction of such new settlers should be postponed until the present system of government has been superseded by one which would afford them fair dealing and encouragement in their endeavours to settle.

Long-sentence Prisoners and Confirmed Lunatics.

Should the necessity arise, as it must sooner or later, for the lengthened imprisonment of culprits or for the proper custody of lunatics, perhaps some arrangement could be come to with the Government of either New South Wales or New Zealand to take charge of them, on condition of this Colony bearing the expense of their removal and keep.

In concluding this Report, I may be pardoned if I express the hope that your Excellency will approve of the manner in which I have sought out and dealt with the various subjects contained in it; which I believe are all that need be considered at the present time for the proper governance of this Colony.

The facts connected with the state of the people, which it was necessary to elicit before I could deal with measures for their improvement or correction, are the result of steady and patient observation; while to the subjects themselves I have given all my thought and study.

The end I have aimed at has been to condense the working of a small but efficient system of government, so as to bring it within the smallest possible cost consistent with the necessities of the Colony.

The people in their general characteristics being unlike others I have had to deal with, a study of their character was necessary before they could be understood. There is much to be said in extenuation of their faults; their ancestry and the peculiar circumstances attending their origin, which are still traceable. The fact of their having been removed to this Island and, by a mistaken kindness, left to govern themselves, without proper control, together with their seclusive system of living, which has resulted in the Government being kept in ignorance of the real state of affairs, have all to be taken into consideration when regarding the present untoward state.

There is, however, a great deal of good in them, which, when rightly understood and under proper control and judicious encouragement, may yet make the Colony what it might have been years ago,—a well-to-do, peaceful, and moral people,—an honor instead of a reflection on the Government.

I may, I hope, respectfully but earnestly beg of your Excellency to cause some early measures to be taken for the amelioration of

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their present condition; and to see that, if I strongly urge the matter, it is because I know what the people are and can see what they might have been; and further, because I feel, and always shall feel, the deepest interest in a people who, whatever their faults, have invariably shown to me the greatest kindness, friendship, and respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY WILKINSON.
Special Commissioner.

APPENDIX A.

PROPOSED LAWS AND REGULATIONS FOR NORFOLK ISLAND.

Repeal of former laws.

1. All laws, ordinances, and regulations which have been and are in force within the Colony called Norfolk Island are hereby repealed and annulled, so far as the Governor is competent to repeal them.

Commissioner.

2. The Executive Government of Norfolk Island, during the absence of the Governor, shall be vested in a Commissioner appointed by the Governor, to whom alone he shall be responsible for the governance of the Colony according to the laws and the instructions of the Governor.

Council of advice.

3. The Commissioner shall be assisted by a council of advice consisting of four councillors, two of whom shall be elected by the "community," one by the Bishop of Melanesia, and one nominated by the Commissioner and approved of by the Governor.

Assembly of twelve representatives.

4. There shall be an Assembly of 12, four of whom shall be the Councillors last referred to, and eight elected delegates, as far as possible representing fairly all classes in the Colony.

Duties of Commissioner.

5. The Commissioner will see that all the laws and regulations of the Colony are properly carried out; he will carry into effect all the instructions he may receive from the Governor; he will keep all the records of the Colony he will superintend the execution of all public work; he will be the medium through which all public business of the Colony will be conducted; and will superintend and account to the Governor for all revenue and expenditure as herein after stated.

Duties of Councillor

6. The four Councillors will assist the Commissioner with their advice when called upon to do so, and otherwise act as herein after stated.

Qualification of Councillors.

7. The two Councillors elected by the community must be resident in the Colony, and must have attained the age of 25 years.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

Election of community Councillors.

8. The election of the two Community Councillors shall be by ballot, and shall take place on the day following Christmas Day in each year, unless that day should fall on a Sunday, in which case the election will take place on the following Monday.

Bishop's and Commissioner's Councillors.

The nomination of the other two Councillors by the Bishop and the Commissioner shall also be made known on the same day.

Persons entitled to vote for Councillors.

9. Only such persons (males) who are recognized members of the community, and have arrived at the age of 21 years, shall be entitled to vote at the election of the Councillors.

Commissions of Councillors.

10. The election of Councillors will be notified to the Governor with the least possible delay, and commissions under the Great Seal of the Colony will be issued to them authorizing them to act as Magistrates. But the Councillors, when duly elected, will be authorised to act as Magistrates pending the receipt of their commissions.

Day of Councillors assuming office.

11. The Councillors will enter upon the duties of their office on the first day of the year, on which day the Commissioner will administer to each of them, in the presence of the people, the oaths of allegiance and office as herein-after specified.

Duties of Assembly.

12. The members of the Assembly shall meet when called upon to do so by the Commissioner and Councillors, and shall take into consideration any matters affecting the general interests of the Colony, and all estimates of revenue and expenditure; and their opinions and suggestions regarding such matters shall be forwarded to the Governor, for his information.

Change in laws.

13. No proposed change in the laws or additions to them shall in any case be submitted to the Governor until the opinion of the Assembly shall have been taken on them.

Record of proceedings of Assembly.

14. A record of the proceedings of the Assembly shall be kept, which record shall be attested by the signatures of the Commissioner and one Councillor.

Commissioner to preside.

15. The Commissioner shall preside at all meetings of the Assembly.

Election of members of Assembly.

16. The members of the Assembly shall be elected in the following manner:—The Colony shall be divided into four wards, according to the number of the population, and each ward shall elect two members; the time and place of such election being the same as for the election of Councillors.

The Commissioner shall preside at the election of Councillors and of members of the Assembly.

Electora list.

17. A list of all males who have arrived at the age of twenty-one shall be kept; and each person whose name shall appear on the list shall be entitled to vote for two members of the Assembly, to represent the ward to which he may belong.

Death o absence Commissioner.

18. Should the Commissioner die, or become incapable of performing the duties of his office, or be absent from the Colony on leave, the senior Councillor elected by the community, and the Councillor nominated by the Commissioner, shall together act for him until the Governor's pleasure be known.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

Disturbance of the peace.

19. Should a public disturbance take place, whereby the laws are defied or the general peace of the Colony is endangered, the Commissioner shall be empowered to call to his assistance, in the Queen's name, any of the inhabitants of the Colony, for the purpose of quelling such disturbance. The summons must be immediately obeyed (when practicable), or the person or persons refusing such assistance shall be deemed as taking part with the disturbers of the peace, and treated accordingly.

Foreign oppression.

20. In the event of oppression, or threatened oppression, by any Foreign Power, the Commissioner shall call the Assembly together and be advised by them as to the best means to adopt for their mutual protection. Whatever means are adopted by the Assembly shall be binding on all the male adults in the Colony, who may be called upon to assist, as laid down in law No. 19.

Amicable settlement of disputes.

21. In all cases of disputed property or rights which may be referred to him, it shall be the duty of the Commissioner to call the parties together and strive to induce them to settle the matter between themselves. Should his efforts be unavailing the case must proceed according to law.

isdemeanours.

22. In cases of misdemeanour committed after these laws shall come in force, the laws of New South Wales shall be administered, except where special local laws are here laid down to meet peculiar circumstances. And the pains and penalties pertaining to such laws shall be applied to guilty persons, and enforced in the manner herein-after stated.

More serious cases and felony.

23. In very serious cases, and in all cases of felony, the matter shall be heard and inquired into by the Commissioner and two Councillors; when, if the prisoner be committed for trial, he can be held to bail at the discretion of the Commissioner and Councillors hearing the case (but not allowed to leave the Colony) until the case, together with the depositions, shall have been submitted to the Governor and his pleasure is known regarding it.

Tribunal for serious cases.

24. In such a case the Governor shall appoint a tribunal for the disposal of the case, and give directions as to punishment of the prisoner if at the final hearing he should be found guilty.

Government farm.

25. A Goverment farm and women's work-room shall be established, where all fines not paid in money or produce, and other penalties and dues, may be worked out.

Fines to be worked out.

26. In cases of fines, one day's work of eight hours on the farm shall be regarded as equal to 5*s.* of the fine owing.

Where fine is not optional.

27. In cases of imprisonment, when no fine is optional, the prisoner may elect whether he will suffer the imprisonment or work on the farm. If he choses the latter, then one and a half day's work shall be considered equal to one day's imprisonment.

Female defaulters.

28. In case of female defaulters, it shall be optional for them to work either on the farm or in the women's work-room, under the same regulations as those applying to men.

Duties of bailiff.

29. A bailiff (married man) shall be appointed, who will take charge of the Courthouse and lock-up, and will, when called upon, execute warrants of distress for debt. He will also, with the assistance of his wife, manage the Government farm and women's

work-room, and see that the persons working do the work according to the time allotted to them.

Daily visit of Commissioner.

30. During the time that persons are imprisoned or working at the farm or work-room the Commissioner shall visit the place once in each day, to hear any complaints of the workers or prisoners and to receive the report of the baliff.

Offender refusing to work.

31. If an offender working out a penalty should refuse to work fairly for the time allotted to him the bailiff shall report the matter to the Commissioner, who shall caution him; if he still refuse to work, it shall be competent for the Commissioner to imprison the offender until he chooses to work; such time of incarceration to be deducted from the allotted time of his work.

Management of farm, &c.

32. The farm, work-room, and store-house shall be managed by the bailiff, under the supervision of the Commissioner, who shall give such instructions regarding crops, work, &c., as he shall deem best in the general interest.

Produce to be sold.

33. The produce of the farm and the articles manufactured in the women's work-room shall be sold by the Commissioner at the best market available and the proceeds paid into the revenue.

Recovery of debts.

34. In all proceedings for the recovery of debts incurred after the passing of these laws, the laws of New South Wales shall apply; and the Commissioner and Councillors shall decide on the cases as herein-after stated, and shall be empowered to issue warrants of distress for their recovery.

Adjudication in debt cases.

35. When the debt is under 10*l.* the Commissioner alone may adjudicate; if it be over 10*l.* and under 20*l.* the Commissioner and one Councillor may adjudicate; if it be over 20*l.* and under 50*l.*, the Commissioner and not less than two Councillors shall be required to decide it.

Debts to Government.

36. Any person owing money to the Government for a period of over months, may be called upon by the Commissioner and one Councillor to liquidate the same by working on the Government farm, at the rate of 5*s.* per day of eight hours (or, if a female, in the women's work-room); but no such person shall be obliged to work more than three days in each week. If the debtor refuse to work out the debt, a warrant of distress for its recovery may issue.

Charge of Government property.

37. The Commissioner shall have charge of all Crown lands, Government houses, and other property, which he shall employ as directed by the Governor.

Government accounts.

38. All accounts shall be kept by the Commissioner, who shall furnish half-yearly a return of revenue and expenditure to the Governor. Duplicates of all returns and accounts shall be retained in the Colony for reference.

Half-yearly returns.

39. Copies of half-yearly returns of revenue and expenditure shall be placed in some convenient public place for inspection by the public, for one month after the returns have been compiled.

Estimates.

No expenditure without Governor's approval, except in extreme cases.

40. Estimates of revenue and expenditure shall be prepared and submitted for the Governor's approval; and no expenditure shall take place without the Governor's approval, except in cases of an urgent nature, when the expense may be incurred at the discretion

NORFOLK ISLAND.

of the Commissioner and two Councillors, and paid out of a fund kept for that purpose, and for which the Commissioner shall be responsible to the Governor.

Intoxicating liquors.

41. No intoxicating liquor shall be sold or landed on the Island except under regulations approved by the Governor.

Landing of intoxicating liquors.

42. Should any person land or attempt to land intoxicating liquor except under such regulations he shall be fined not more than 10*l.*, and all the liquor so landed or attempted to be landed shall be forfeited to the Government and handed over to an authorised person to retain it for public use.

Remission of penalties.

43. The Governor only shall have power to remit fines, penalties, or money dues owing to the Government.

Public school.

44. Parents or guardians shall send their children to school when they have attained the age of six years, and will cause them to attend regularly at school till they have reached the age of fourteen years. No excuse for non-attendance will be admitted except sickness or family bereavement. A fine of 6*d.* per diem will be imposed upon the parents or guardians of every child whose absence from school is unauthorised.

School Board.

45. A Board shall be appointed by the Governor for the management of the school, under regulations approved by him.

Churches.

46. Matters connected with any church shall be managed by persons authorised by the Governor, and such persons shall furnish any returns of the affairs of their church as the Governor may from time to time require.

Stock.

47. All stock on the Island which may be running at large shall be subject to regulations approved by the Governor, and any assessment fee charged on such stock shall be paid to the revenue.

Cutting timber from Crown land.

48. Any person requiring pine trees or iron-wood trees on Crown lands must obtain the authority of the Commissioner to fell and use the same; and for every such tree obtained a fee shall be paid to the Government of not less than 10*s.* nor more than 2*l.*, at the discretion of the Commissioner.

Planting new trees.

49. Any person cutting down and using a tree on Crown lands shall plant a sapling, not less than two years old, of the same kind of timber, near the place where the tree has been felled, and shall build around it a fence sufficient to keep off cattle from destroying it.

Penalty *re* timber.

50. Any person failing or refusing to comply with these conditions in the cutting of timber shall be fined not less than 1*l.* nor more than 5*l.*

Keeping land clear.

51. Every holder of unfenced land or lessee of Government land shall keep it clear of "tobacco-bush," "poison-bush," and "acacia."

Penalty for not keeping land clear.

52. If, after twelve months from the passing of this law, any of the above-named bushes be found on any unfenced land or leased Crown land, the owner or lessee of such land shall be fined not less than 1*l.* nor more than 10*l.*

53. Wills:—After the death of a testator the executors shall prove the will before the Commissioner, who may then authorise them to administer the will according to the terms contained in it; which being done, the executors shall endorse on the will a statement that the terms of the will have been carried out as directed, which statement shall be signed by the executors, and if possible, by each of the legatees. The will shall then be filed and kept with the records of the Colony. Wills.

54. When land has been bequeathed the Commissioner shall see that the land is divided according to the directions of the will, and shall cause new deeds of the land to issue, for which the legatees shall pay at the rate of *l.* for each deed. Division of land.

55. If a person die intestate the next of kin, together with the Commissioner, shall administer the estate. If the intestate was married, then the widow or widower, as the case may be, shall, with the Commissioner, administer. Intestate estates.

56. If the intestate shall have left children the widow may claim one-half of the estate, and the remaining half be divided among the children as they come of age. During the minority of the children the widow shall act as trustee, and employ the estate for the support of herself and children. Claim of widow.

57. Should there be no parents living, the Commissioner and one Councillor shall appoint two trustees to superintend the estate and employ it for the benefit of the children during their minority; any one of whom, when he comes of age, may claim his share of the estate. Trustees.

58. Form of oath to be taken by Councillors before admission to office:—

I, , do hereby swear that I will bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria; and that I will, to the best of my ability, and without fear or favour, perform the duties of a Councillor of Norfolk Island. So help me God. Oath for Councillors.

99. Form of oath to be taken by members of Assembly on taking their seats:—

I, , do hereby swear that I will bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria; and that I will to the best of my ability, without fear or favour, perform the duties of a member of the Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God. Oath for members of Assembly.

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APPENDIX B.

Return of Fines remaining unpaid to 31*st March* 1885

Date of Fine.	Name of Offender.	Offence.	Amount of Fine.	Balance due.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1877.				
December 19 -	Rachael Evans -	Fornication -	10 0 0	8 15 0
1880.				
September 22 -	Fairfax M. Quintal	Do. -	10 0 0	6 2 0
„ 22 -	Hugo Quintall -	Do. -	10 0 0	10 0 0
„ 22 -	Fanny Buffett -	Do. -	10 0 0	3 10 0
1884.				
January 22 -	Laura Evans -	Do. -	10 0 0	10 0 0
August 26 -	Sidney Christian -	Do. -	10 0 0	10 0 0
„ 26 -	Fanny Buffett -	Do. -	10 0 0	10 0 0
„ 29 -	Wade Robinson -	Do. -	10 0 0	10 0 0
„ 29 -	Annie Evans -	Do. -	10 0 0	10 0 0
December 26 -	Maude Quintall -	Theft - -	0 5 0	0 5 0
„ 26 -	Amelia Evans -	„ - -	0 7 6	0 7 6
				78 19 6

APPENDIX C.

*(Map.)**

* Not printed.

APPENDIX D.

Return showing the Original Grants of Land on Norfolk Island; the Land disposed of, and the manner of such disposal; and the Area now in the possession of each Landowner. Taken from the Original Deeds, Registers of Deeds, Wills, Sales, Transfers, and Partitions at Norfolk Island, and from Information obtained in other ways.

Name.	Portion No.	Date of Grant.	Area granted.	Area disposed of.	Area in possession.	Total area possessed by each Person.	Remarks.
			a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	
Adams, Geo. - -	31	14 September 1859	50 1 23	50 1 23	—	—	Sold to Jonathan Adams.
Adams, Wm. - -	89A	25 August 1875 -	25 0 0	12 0 0	13 0 0	13 0 0	12 acres sold to F. M. Nobbs.
Adams, W. R. M. -	47A	23 April 1884 -	24 2 0	—	24 2 0	24 2 0	
Adams, Jonathan -	30	14 September 1859	50 0 10	50 0 10	—	—	Sold to Chas. Christian, senior.
Adams, Jonathan -	31	„ — „	—	—	50 1 23	—	Bought from Geo. Adams.
Adams, Jonathan -	34		—	—	6 2 37	57 0 20	Bequeathed to wife by Arthur Quintall, senior.
Adams, Fysh - -	41	21 February 1871 -	25 2 5½	—	25 2 5½	25 2 5½	In possession of his widow, Fanny Adams.
Adams John - -	55	14 September 1859	51 3 23	14 0 0	37 3 23	37 3 23	14 acres sold to W. F. Dufty.
Adams, G. Webb -	41	21 February 1871 -	25 2 5½	—	25 2 5½	25 2 5½	
Adams, Josiah C. -	88	14 September 1859	50 1 4	—	50 1 4	50 1 4	
Adams, Byron - -	42	13 June 1871 -	26 3 28½	—	26 3 28½	26 3 28½	
Allen, Dwight - -	24	—	—	—	12 0 0	12 0 0	Bought from Cornelius Quintall.
Buffett, J., senr. -	69	14 September 1859	50 2 31	50 2 31	—	—	Exchanged with Edward Buffett for portion No. 58, which he sold to Thos. Rossiter.
Buffett, R. - -	70	„ „	42 1 1	42 1 1	—	—	Sold to Thos. Buffett.
Buffett, J., junr. -	8	„ „	49 2 1	—	49 2 1	—	
Bu ett, J., junr. -	68		—	—	12 1 4½	61 3 5½	Bequeathed by Mary Christian.
Buffett, Allen - -	77A	25 August 1875 -	25 0 0	—	25 0 0	25 0 0	
Buffett, David - -	10	14 September 1859	48 2 5	—	48 2 5	—	
Buffett, David - -	68	—	—	—	12 1 4½	—	Bequeathed by Mary Christian.
Buffett, David - -	—	—	—	—	10 3 11	71 2 20½	„ Jacob Christian to David Buffett's wife (Maria, widow of Jacob Christian).

Appendix D.—*continued.*

Name.	Portion No.	Date of Grant.	Area granted.	Area disposed of.	Area in possession.	Total area possessed by each Person.	Remarks.
			a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	
Buffett, Fortiscue -	11	5 October 1877 -	23 3 13	—	23 3 13	23 3 13	
Buffett, Thos. - -	71	14 September 1859	52 0 17	—	52 0 17	—	
Buffett, Thos. - -	70	„ „	—	—	42 1 1	—	Bought from R. Buffett.
Buffett, Thos. - -	84	„ „	49 3 27	12 0 0	37 3 27	—	Granted to Eliz. Young, who sold it to Dorcas, now second wife of T. Buffett. 12 acres sold to Dr. Metcalf.
Buffett, Thos. - -	68	—	—	—	12 1 4½	—	Bequeathed by Mary Christian.
Buffett, Thos. - -	—	—	—	6 2 18	—	—	„ Dinah Quintall to first wife, who gave it to Mrs. Leonard Christian.
Buffett, Thos. - -	11B	23 April 1884 -	11 3 27	—	11 3 27	156 1 36½	Grant to second wife.
Buffett, Ed. - -	58	14 September 1859	49 2 11	49 2 11	—	—	Exchanged with J. Buffett, senior, for No. 69.
Buffett, Ed. - -	69	„ „	—	—	50 2 31	—	
Buffett, Ed. - -	68	—	—	—	12 1 4½	62 3 35½	Bequeathed by Mary Christian.
Buffett, Seymour -	19A	25 August 1875 -	25 0 0	—	25 0 0	25 0 0	
Bailey, Geo. - -	39A	5 October 1877 -	13 0 13¼	—	13 0 13¼	13 0 13¼	Granted to wife.
Bates, F. - -	153	5 March 1877 -	48 2 29	23 2 29	25 0 0	25 0 0	23-2-29, sold to Thos. Rossiter.
Bataille, Victor -	81A	17 „ 1879 -	15 2 39	—	15 2 39	15 2 39	Granted to wife.
Christian, T. O. -	32	14 September 1859	50 0 3	50 0 3	—	—	Sold to Wm. Quintall, P. M'Coy, C. D. Christian, Ben. Christian, and Jacob Christian.
Christian, Peggy -	45	„ „	51 0 38	51 0 38	—	—	See memo. *re* will of Peggy Christian.
Christian, Mary -	68	„ „	49 0 19	49 0 19	—	—	Bequeathed by John, David, Thomas, and Edward Buffett.
Christian, Jacob -	9	„ „	50 0 22	50 0 22	—	—	
Christian, Jacob -	—	—	—	6 1 24¾	—	—	Bequeathed by Peggy Christian. { Left by will to William (dead), Chad. (dead), Sophia, Holder Bessie, and Maria (widow, now second wife of D. Buffett).
Christian, Jacob -	—	—	—	8 1 19½	—	—	Bought from T. O. Christian.
Christian, C. D. -	56	14 September 1859	51 1 26	—	51 1 26	—	
Christian, C. D. -	—	—	—	—	6 1 24¾	—	Bequeathed by Peggy Christian.
Christian, C. D. -	—	—	—	—	11 0 26	68 3 36¾	Bought from T. O. Christian.
Christian, G. H. Parkin	44	25 August 1875 -	24 1 26	—	24 1 26	24 1 26	
Christian, Ephraim -	15	21 August 1867 -	50 0 19	—	50 0 19	50 0 19	
Christian, Selwyn -	50	31 January 1879 -	29 3 18	—	29 3 18	29 3 18	
Christian, Jemima -	62	27 August 1867 -	52 2 28	—	52 2 28	52 2 28	
Christian, Benjamin -	46	14 September 1859	50 0 32	—	50 0 32	—	
Christian, Benjamin -	—	—	—	—	11 0 26	61 1 18	Bought from T. O. Christian.
Christian, Richard -	138A	5 October 1877 -	25 1 15	—	25 1 15	25 1 15	Now held by his widow, Isabel.

Appendix D.—*continued.*

Name.	Portion No.	Date of Grant.	Area granted.	Area disposed of.	Area in possession.	Total area possessed by each Person.	Remarks.
			a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	
Christian, Hunt -	86	27 August 1867 -	49 1 18	—	49 1 18	49 1 18	
Christian, Isaac -	75	14 September 1879	50 0 13	—	50 0 13	50 0 13	Now held by his widow, Miriam.
Christiam, F. Howard	51A	12 January 1880 -	25 0 0	—	25 0 0	25 0 0	
Christian, C. Allen -	50A	31 January 1879 -	29 3 18	—	29 3 18	29 3 18	
Christian Stephen -	6	27 September 1867	51 0 8	—	51 0 8	—	
Christian. Stephen -	—	—	—	—	6 1 24¾	57 1 32¾	Bequeathed by Peggy Christian.
Christian, C., senr. -	14	14 September 1859	49 2 28	—	49 2 28	—	
Christian, C., senr. -	53	—	54 1 17	—	54 1 17	—	Bought from James Daw.
Christian, C., senr. -	—	—	—	—	51 0 10	—	Bought from Jonathan Adams.
Christian, C., senr, -	—	—	—	—	6 2 37	—	Bequeathed by Arthur Quintall, senr.
Christian, C., senr. -	—	—	—	—	6 2 37	168 2 9	Bequeathed by Arthur Quintall, senr., to Joseph Quintall, and sold by him to Charles Christian, senr.
Christian, Leonard -	136A	25 August 1875 -	25 0 0	—	25 0 0	—	
Christian, Leonard -	—	—	—	—	6 2 18	31 2 18	Given to wife by Thos. Buffett.
Champion, Wm. -	44A	25 August 1875 -	12 2 0	—	12 2 0	12 2 0	Granted to wife.
Chapman, John -	—	—	—	—	4 0 0	4 0 0	Bought from Wm. Taylor.
Dawe, James - -	53	14 September 1879	54 1 17	54 1 17	—	—	Sold to Chas. Christian, senr.
Dufty, W. F. - -	54A	5 October 1877 -	12 3 22	12 3 22	—	—	Sold to Thos. Rossiter.
Dufty, W. F. - -	—	—	—	14 0 0	—	—	Bought from John Adams, and sold to Thos. Rossiter.
Evans, G. F. M. -	29	14 September 1859	50 2 6	—	50 2 6	50 2 6	
Evans, John, senr. -	28	—	52 0 37	—	52 0 37	—	
Evans, John, senr. -	13	—	—	—	50 1 16	102 2 13	Property of his late son, who died intestate.
Evans, John, junr. -	13	—	50 1 16	50 1 16	—	—	Died intestate; land held by his father.
Evans, Wm. - -	22	—	50 1 26	—	—	50 1 26	Died intestate; land held by his children; no partition made.
Evans, Frank - -	—	—	—	—	10 3 11	10 3 11	Bequeathed to wife, Sophia, by Jacob Christian.
Jackson, John - -	157B	23 April 1884 -	12 1 28	—	12 1 28	12 1 28	Grant to wife.
Hebblethwaite, J. W. -	83	27 June 1878 -	13 1 14½	—	13 1 14½	—	Granted in right of wife; now held by widow in trust for children.
Hebblethwaite, J. W. -	—	—	—	—	12 0 0	25 1 14½	Bequeathed to Mrs. Hebblethwaite by Rev. G. H. Nobbs.
McCoy, S. - -	7	14 September 1859	50 3 39	—	50 3 39	—	In possession of his widow, Polly McCoy.
McCoy, S. - -	—	—	—	—	6 1 24¾	57 1 23¾	Bequeathed to wife by Peggy Christian.
McCoy, Phillip - -	16	14 September 1859	50 0 33	—	50 0 33	—	
McCoy, Phillip - -	66B	23 April 1884 -	12 1 38	—	12 1 38	—	Grant to second wife.
McCoy, Phillip - -	—	„ „ -	—	—	8 1 19½	—	Bought from T. O. Christian.
McCoy, Phillip - -	—	„ „ -	—	—	6 1 24¾	77 1 35¼	Bequeathed by Peggy Christian.
McLiver, J. - -	49	21 February 1871 -	13 1 14½	—	13 1 14½	13 1 14½	Granted to wife.

Appendix D.—*continued.*

Name.	Portion o.	Date of Grant.	Area granted.	Area disposed of.	Area in possession.	Total area possessed by each Person.	Remarks.
			a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	
McLiver, J. - -	—	21 February 1871 -	—	6 0 0	—	—	Bought from Pardon Snell, and sold to Dr. Metcalfe.
Menges, Henry -	19B	20 April 1881 -	12 0 39½	—	12 0 39½	12 0 39½	Granted to wife.
Metcalfe, Dr. - -	84	14 September 1859	—	12 0 0	—	—	Bought from Thos. Buffett, and sold to J. M'Liver.
Metcalfe, Dr. - -	—	—	—	—	6 0 0	6 0 0	Bought from J. M'Liver.
Nobbs, Rev. G. H. -	35	14 September 1859	51 0 5	12 0 0	39 0 5	39 0 5	12 acres bequeathed to Mrs. Hebblethwaite, remainder in possession of widow.
Nobbs, J. W. J. -	37	„ „	51 3 10	—	51 3 10	—	
Nobbs, J. W. J. -	—	„ „	—	—	6 1 24¾	58 0 34¾	Bequeathed by Peggy Christian.
Nobbs, F. M. - -	36	„ „	55 2 9	—	55 2 9	—	
Nobbs, F. M. - -	—	—	—	—	12 0 0	—	Bought from Wm. Adams.
Nobbs, F. M. - -	—	—	—	—	26 1 32½	—	Bought from Rev. S. H. Nobbs.
Nobbs, F. M, - -	—	—	—	—	13 0 36	—	Bought from J. A. Quintall.
Nobbs, F. M. - -	—	—	—	—	21 0 0	128 0 37½	Bought from John Quintall, 3rd.
Nobbs, Rev. S. H. -	39	1 February 1871 -	26 1 32½	26 1 32½	—	—	Sold to F. M. Nobbs.
Nobbs, Rev. S. H. -	—	—	—	—	4 0 0	4 0 0	Bequeathed to wife by Mathew Quintall.
Nobbs, F. C. - -	76	14 September 1859	55 2 9	—	55 2 9	—	
Nobbs, F. C. - -	—	—	—	—	6 2 18	—	Bequeathed to wife by Dinah Quintall.
Nobbs, F. C. - -	—	—	—	—	6 2 18	—	Bought from Caleb Quintall.
Nobbs, F. C. - -	—	—	—	—	51 3 28	120 2 33	Bequeathed by Mathew Quintall.
Nobbs, Alfred A. -	94A	21 February 1871 -	27 1 34	—	27 1 34	27 1 34	
Quintall, Mathew -	1	14 September 1859	55 3 28	55 3 28	—	—	4 acres bequeathed to wife of S. H. Nobbs; remainder, 51a. 3r. 28p., bequeathed to F. C. Nobbs.
Quintall, Dinah -	87	„ „	50 0 39	50 0 39	—	—	Exchanged with A. B. Quintall for No. 43.
Quintall, Dinah -	43	„ „	—	50 3 16	—	—	Exchanged with Joshua Quintall for No. 59.
Quintall, Dinah -	59	„ „	—	52 3 24	—	—	Bequeathed to eight people—*see* memo. *re* will of Dinah Quintall.
Quintall, A. B. - -	43	„ „	50 3 16	50 3 16	—	—	Exchanged with Dinah Quintall for No. 87.
Quintall, A. B. - -	87	„ „	—	—	50 0 39	—	
Quintall, A. B. - -	—	—	—	6 2 18	—	—	Bequeathed by Dinah Quintall; sold to J. A. Quintall.
Quintall, A. B. - -	—	—	—	6 2 18	—	—	Bequeathed by Dinah Quintall to Chads Quintall, who left it to A. B. Quintall, who sold it to J. A. Quintall.
Quintall, A. B. - -	—	—	—	—	13 3 6¼	64 0 5¼	Bought from J. A. Quintall.
Quintall, J. H. - -	59	14 September 1859	52 3 24	52 3 24	—	—	Exchanged with Dinah Quintall for No. 43.
Quintall, J. H. - -	43	—	—	—	50 3 16	—	Held by his widow.
Quintall, J. H. - -	—	—	—	—	6 2 18	57 2 14	Bequeathed by Dinah Quintall.
Quintall, J. A. - -	95A	29 April 1881 -	13 3 6¼	13 3 6¼	—	—	Sold to A. B. Quintall.

Appendix D.—*continued.*

Name.	Portion No.	Date of Grant.	Area granted.	Area disposed of.	Area in possession.	Total area possessed by each Person.	Remarks.
			a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	
Quintall, J. A.	—	—	—	13 0 36	—	—	Bought from A. B. Quintall, and sold to F. M. Nobbs.
Quintall, A. senr.	24	14 September 1859	50 0 26	50 0 26	—	—	Bequeathed to children. (*See* memo. *re* will.)
Quintall, Wm.	25	" — "	53 2 23	—	53 2 23	—	
Quintall, Wm.	—	—	—	2 0 0	4 2 18	—	6a. 2r. 18p. bequeathed by Dinah Quintall: 2 acres sold to N. Satterfield.
Quintall, Wm.	—	—	—	—	13 3 32	72 0 33	Bought from T. O. Christian.
Quintall, A., jnnr.	60	14 September 1859	53 2 32	—	53 2 32	—	
Quintall, A., junr.	—	—	—	—	6 2 18	60 1 10	Bequeathed to wife by Dinah Quintall.
Quintall, A., junr.	—	—	—	5 2 3¼	—	—	Bequeathed by A. Quintall, senr., and sold to James Taylor.
Quintall, John, senr.	3	14 September 1859	55 0 10	—	55 0 10	—	
Quintall, John, senr.	—	—	—	—	5 2 3¼	60 2 13¼	Bequeathed by A. Quintall, senr.
Quintall, John, junr.	26	14 September 1859	50 1 10	—	50 1 10	50 1 10	Died intestate; land held by his children: no partition made.
Quintall, John, 3rd	21	27 September 1867	49 2 39	21 0 0	28 2 39	28 2 39	21 acres sold to F. M. Nobbs.
Quintall, James	17	" — "	52 1 34	—	52 1 34	—	
Quintall, James	—	—	—	5 2 3¼	—	—	Bequeathed by A. Quintall, senr.; given to J. Pattieson Quintall.
Quintall, James	—	—	—	—	6 1 24¾	58 3 18¾	Bequeathed by Peggy Christian.
Quintall, Joseph	12	19 January 1872	50 0 14	—	50 0 14	—	
Quintall, Joseph	66A	29 April 1881	12 1 38	—	12 1 38	—	Grant to second wife.
Quintall, Joseph	—	—	—	6 2 37	—	62 2 12	Bequeathed by A. Quintall, senior; sold to Chas. Christian.
Quintall, Caleb	74	14 September 1859	49 1 26	—	49 1 26	—	
Quintall, Caleb	—	—	—	6 2 18	—	49 1 26	Bequeathed by Dinah Quintall; sold to F. C. Nobbs.
Quintall, Nat.	23	27 September 1867	50 2 30	—	50 2 30	—	
Quintall, Nat.	—	—	—	—	5 2 3½	56 0 33½	Bequeathed by A. Quintall, senior.
Quintall, Cornelius	34	27 August 1867	53 3 16	12 0 0	41 3 16	—	*See* memo. *re* will of A. Quintall, senior. 12 acres sold to D. Allen.
Quintall, Cornelius	—	—	—	—	6 2 37	48 2 13	Bequeathed by A. Quintall, senior.
Quintall, Ed.	93	27 August 1867	53 0 31	—	53 0 31	—	
Quintall, Ed.	96A	23 April 1884	16 3 2¾	—	16 3 2¾	69 3 33¾	Grant to second wife.
Quintall, J. Patteson	18A	18 January 1880	25 0 6	—	25 0 6	—	
Quintall, J. Patteson	—	—	—	2 0 0	3 2 3½	28 2 9½	5a. 2r. 3½p. given by Jas. Quintall. 2 acres sold to Jas. Taylor.
Quintall, H. F.	78B	22 March 1880	26 1 2	—	26 1 2	26 1 2	
Quintall, Gregory W.	78A	" "	26 1 2	—	26 1 2	26 1 2	
Quintall, Gustave	89	23 April 1884	28 1 23	—	28 1 23	28 1 23	
Rossiter, Thos.	150	27 August 1867	50 0 37	—	50 0 37	—	

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Appendix D.—*continued.*

Name.	Portion No.	Date of Grant.	Area granted.	Area disposed of.	Area in possession.	Total area possessed by each Person.	Remarks.
			a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	a. r. p.	
Rossiter, Thos. - -	69	—	—	—	50 2 31	—	Bought from J. Buffett, senior.
Rossiter, Thos. - -	—	—	—	—	23 2 29	—	Bought from F. Bates.
Rossiter, Thos. - -	—	—	—	—	12 3 22	—	Bought from W. F. Dufty.
Rossiter, Thos. - -	—	—	—	—	14 0 0	151 1 39	Bought from W. F. Dufty.
Robinson, Isaac -	4	9 September 1871	27 3 4	—	27 3 4	27 3 4	Grant to wife.
Snell, Pardon - -	38A	13 September 1867	25 2 23½	7 0 0	18 2 23½	—	Granted to P. Snell in right of wife. 6 acres sold to J. M'Liver, 1 acre to N. Satterfield.
Snell, Pardon - -	155A	24 April 1831 -	12 0 26¾	—	12 0 26¾	30 3 10¼	Granted to P. Snell in right of second wife.
Taylor, Wm. - -	52	6 May 1862 -	54 1 0	4 0 0	50 1 0	50 1 0	4 acres sold to J. Chapman.
Taylor, Jas. - -	157A	5 January 1878 -	12 1 30	—	12 1 30	—	Grant to wife.
Taylor, Jas. - -	157C	23 April 1884 -	12 1 28	—	12 1 28	—	
Taylor, Jas. - -	—	—	—	—	2 0 0	—	Bought from J. Patteson Quintall.
Taylor, Jas. - -	—	—	—	—	5 2 3¼	32 1 21¼	Bought from A. Quintall, junior.
Young, Hannah -	27	14 September 1859	52 0 19	52 0 19	—	—	Sold to Jemima Young, spinster, who died intestate. (*See* memo. *re* will.)
Young, Elizabeth -	84	„ „ -	49 3 27	49 3 27	—	—	Sold to Dorcas Young, now second wife of Thos. Buffett.
Young, G. M. Fred. -	5	„ „ -	51 2 25	—	51 2 25	—	
Young, G. M. Fred. -	2	„ „ -	55 1 22	—	55 1 22	107 0 7	Given by his brother, Simon Young.
Young, Simon - -	2	„ „ -	55 1 22	55 1 22	—	—	Gave the land to his brother, G. M. Fred. Young.
Young, J. F. - -	77	5 October 1877 -	27 3 1	—	27 3 1	27 3 1	
Total -	—	—	—	—	—	3,567 0 15	

APPENDIX E.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

Return showing the number of Stock on Norfolk Island in 1884, *the quantity of Land possessed by each Stock-owner, and the number of Stock over and above what each man's Land is supposed to reasonably carry, allowing three acres to each head of Cattle and Horses, and one acre to each Sheep; together with proposed Assessment Fee for Cattle, Horses, and Sheep in excess.*

Name.	Area.	Stock in 1884.			Stock in excess.		Fees.	Remarks.
		Cattle.	Horses.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Sheep.		
	a. r. p.						£ s. d.	
Adams, Wm.	13 0 0	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Adams, W. R. M.	24 2 0	6	1	—	—	—	—	
Adams, Jonathan	57 0 20	6	4	70	—	43	2 3 0	
Adams, Fysh	25 2 5½	9	1	—	1	—	0 3 0	Held by widow Fanny.
Adams, John	37 3 23	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Adams, G. Webb	25 2 5½	4	1	—	—	—	—	
Adams, Josiah C.	50 1 4	7	5	70	—	56	2 16 0	
Adams, Byron	26 3 28½	5	1	—	—	—	—	
Allen, Dwight	12 0 0	10	5	—	11	—	1 13 0	
Buffett, J., junior	61 3 5½	32	3	—	14	—	2 2 0	
Buffett, Allen	25 0 0	20	3	—	14	—	2 2 0	
Buffett, David	71 2 20½	50	3	70	29	70	7 17 0	
Buffett, Fortiscue	23 3 13	11	4	—	7	—	1 1 0	
Buffett, Thos.	156 1 36½	50	6	18	10	—	1 10 0	
Buffett. Ed.	62 3 35½	33	4	—	16	—	2 8 0	
Buffett, Seymour	25 0 0	9	3	—	3	—	0 9 0	
Bailey, Geo.	13 0 13¼	21	3	—	20	—	3 0 0	
Bates, F.	25 0 0	26	8	—	25	—	3 15 0	
Bataille, V.	15 2 39	2	2	—	—	—	—	
Christian, C. D.	68 3 36¾	6	4	70	—	32	1 12 0	
Christian, G. H. Parkin	24 1 26	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Christian, Ephraim	50 0 19	13	3	70	—	68	3 8 0	
Christian, Selwyn	29 3 18	17	2	—	9	—	1 7 0	
Christian, Jemima	52 2 28	30	3	—	16	—	2 8 0	
Christian, Benjamin	61 1 18	10	2	70	—	45	2 5 0	
Christian, Richard	25 1 15	2	2	18	—	5	0 5 0	Held by widow Is bel.
Christian, Hunt	49 1 18	2	1	—	—	—	—	
Christian, Isaac	50 0 13	5	4	—	—	—	—	Held by widow Miriam.
Christian, F. Howard	25 0 0	10	2	—	3	—	0 9 0	
Christian, C. Allen	29 3 18	15	2	—	7	—	1 1 0	
Christian, Stephen	57 1 32¾	11	3	105	—	90	4 10 0	
Christian, Chas., sen.	168 2 9	61	9	105	14	105	7 7 0	
Christian, Leonard	31 2 18	5	2	—	—	—	—	
Champion, Wm.	12 2 0	4	3	—	3	—	0 9 0	
Chapman, John	4 0 0	—	2	—	1	—	0 3 0	
Evans, G. F. M.	50 2 6	34	7	70	24	70	7 2 0	
Evans, John, sen.	102 2 13	37	4	—	7	—	1 1 0	
Evans, Wm.	50 1 26	—	—	—	—	—	—	Held by his children.
Evans, Frank	10 3 11	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Jackson, John	12 1 28	2	1	—	—	—	—	
Hebblethwaite, Mrs.	25 1 14⅓	—	—	—	—	—	—	
M'Coy, S.	57 1 23¾	4	1	70	—	28	1 8 0	Held by widow.
M'Coy, Philip	77 1 35½	14	4	70	—	47	2 7 0	
M'Liver, J.	13 1 14½	2	7	—	5	—	0 15 0	
Menges, Hy.	12 0 39½	1	2	—	—	—	—	
Metcalfe, Dr.	6 0 0	1	3	—	2	—	0 6 0	
Nobbs, Rev. G. H.	39 0 5	30	3	—	20	—	3 0 0	Held by widow.
Nobbs, J. W. J.	58 0 34¾	30	6	70	17	70	6 1 0	
Nobbs, F. M.	128 0 37½	80	9	70	47	70	10 11 0	
Nobbs, Rev. S. H.	4 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Nobbs, F. C.	120 2 23	70	5	70	35	70	8 15 0	
Nobbs, Alfred A.	27 1 34	15	3	70	2	70	4 17 0	
Quintall, A. B.	64 0 5½	29	5	70	13	70	5 9 0	

NORFOLK ISLAND.

Name.	Area.	Stock in 1884.			Stock in excess.		Fees.	Remarks.
		Cattle.	Horses.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Sheep.		
	a. r. p.						£ s. d.	
Quintall, J. H. -	57 2 4	25	3	70	10	70	5 0 0	Held by widow, Jane.
Quintall, Wm. -	72 0 33	5	1	70	—	16	0 16 0	
Quintall, A. -	60 1 10	21	6	70	7	70	4 11 0	
Quintall, John, sen.	60 2 13¼	5	6	35	—	8	0 8 0	
Quintall, John, jun.	50 1 10	5	4	70	—	47	2 7 0	Held by his children.
Quintall, John, 3rd	28 2 39	13	1	—	5	—	0 15 0	
Quintall, James -	58 3 18¾	7	2	70	—	39	1 19 0	
Quintall, Joseph -	62 2 12	5	3	35	—	—	—	
Quintall, Caleb -	49 1 26	20	5	70	9	70	4 17 0	
Quintall, Nat. -	56 0 33¼	4	—	—	—	—	—	
Quintall, Cornelius	48 2 13	7	3	—	—	—	—	
Quintall, Ed. -	69 3 33¾	15	5	—	—	—	—	
Quintall, J. Patteson	28 2 9¼	2	2	—	—	—	—	
Quintall, H. F. -	26 1 2	15	2	35	8	35	2 19 0	
Quintall, Gregory W. - -	26 1 2	4	1	6	—	—	—	
Quintall, Gustave -	28 1 23	11	1	—	3	—	0 9 0	
Rossiter, Thos. -	151 1 39	190	21	—	151	—	22 13 0	
Robinson, Isaac -	27 3 4	42	6	70	39	70	9 7 0	
Snell, Pardon -	30 3 10¼	4	2	—	—	—	—	
Taylor, William -	50 1 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Taylor, Jas. -	—	8	1	—	—	—	—	
Young, G. M. F. -	107 0 7	18	6	70	—	35	1 15 0	
Young, J. F. -	27 3 1	16	3	—	10	—	1 10 0	
Persons who hold stock, but having no land, have applied for leases.								
Buffett, Lindsay -	—	7	2	—	—	—	1 7 0	
Evans, Hobson -	—	9	3	70	—	—	5 6 0	
Edwards, J. H. -	—	3	3	—	—	—	0 18 0	
Quintall, Mathew -	—	6	2	—	—	—	1 4 0	
		1,310	257	1,967	—	—	175 16 0	

APPENDIX F.

MEMORANDA *re* Wills of the following persons:—Mary Christian, Jacob Christian, Peggy Christian, Jemima Young, Arthur Quintall, senior, and Dinah Quintall.

Division of land by Thursday October Christian on his return to Pitcairn.

WILL of Mary Christian, Norfolk Island.

Portion No. 68, 49a. 0r. 19 p. granted to Mary Christian.

The above land was left by will to the following persons, to be equally divided amongst them:—

	A.	R.	P.
Thos. Buffett - - -	12	1	4¾
John Buffett, junr. - - -	12	1	4¾
David Buffett - - -	12	1	4¾
Edward Buffett - - -	12	1	4¾
	49	0	19¼

The will was produced, together with the original deed of grant, but beyond these there are no other deeds by which the legatees can hold the land, and the land has not yet been divided amongst them.

Both deed of grant and Mary Christian's will are registered.

Norfolk Island—Property of late Jacob Christian.

	A.	R.	P.
Grant of land, por. No. 9 - -	50	0	22
Bequeathed by Peggy Christian -	6	1	24¾
Bought from Thursday October Christian - - -	8	1	19½
	64	3	26¼

Jacob Christian's will (duly registered) leaves his landed property to be divided equally amongst the following persons:—

	A.	R.	P.
William Christian (dead) - -	10	3	11
Chads Christian (dead) - -	10	3	11
Sophia (wife of Frank Evans) -	10	3	11
Holder Christian (minor) - -	10	3	11
Bessie Christian do. - -	10	3	11
Mariah, widow, now wife of David Buffett - - - -	10	3	11
	64	3	26

Memo.—There is no legal manner of dividing this land and issuing fresh deeds to the legatees.

WILL of Peggy Christian, Norfolk Island.

Grant of land, portion No. 45, 51a. 0r. 38 p., to Peggy Christian. Peggy Christian left the land by will to her children, in equal shares, as follows:—

	A.	R.	P.
Phillip McCoy, son - - -	6	1	24¾
Jacob Christian, son (since dead) -	6	1	24¾
Priscilla, daughter (wife of James Quintall) - - - -	6	1	24¾
Polly McCoy, daughter (widow of Samuel McCoy) - - -	6	1	24¾
Lucy Christian, daughter (wife of C. D. Christian) - - -	6	1	24¾
Emily Nobbs, daughter (wife of J. W. Jonson Nobbs) - - -	6	1	24
Stephen Christian, son - -	6	1	24¾
Delia Adams, grand-daughter -	6	1	24¾

NORFOLK ISLAND.

The will appears to be perfectly formal, and was produced by Stephen Christian in the presence of the other legatees, but it has not been registered in the Register of Wills. No regular division of the land has been made.

Delia Adams (a minor) has been handed by her parents (Webb and Abigail Adams) over to the care of Stephen Christian, who also acts as trustee for her portion of the land.

With reference to Jacob Christian's portion, *see* memo. *re* will of Jacob Christian.

WILL of Jemima Young, Norfolk Island.

Portion No. 27, of 52a. 0r. 19p.; granted to Hannah Young. This land was sold by Hannah Young to Jemima Young (spinster). Sale registered.

Previous to her death Jemima Young had a will written out by John Buffett, senr., but owing, it is stated, to physical inability and the somewhat sudden character of her death, the will was not signed. The unsigned will was produced, and, according to it, the land would have to be divided amongst a number of persons.

G. M. Fred. Young, her brother is next of kin.

Submitted.—In this case it will be best for G. M. Fred. Young to claim the land, being next of kin to Jemima Young; and if he chooses, and is satisfied that the unsigned will expresses the desire of Jemima Young regarding the disposal of the land, to divide it accordingly.

WILL of late Arthur Quintall, senior, Norfolk Island.

Portion No. 24 of 50a. 0r. 26p. granted to Arthur Quintall, senior.

Before his death, Arthur Quintall, senior, agreed to exchange one-half of his portion No. 24 for half of portion No. 34 granted to Cornelius Quintall. The will of Arthur Quintall, senior, provides for such exchange of land, and leaves the whole of his land, three acres, to his grandson, and the remainder to be equally divided amongst his eight children.

The legatees therefore agreed to divide the land in the following manner, but no surveys have been made nor any registration of the partition :—

Half of allotment No. 34.

	A.	R.	P.
Joseph Quintall - - -	6	2	7
Cornelius Quintall - - -	6	2	37
Charlotte Christian - - -	6	2	37
Phœbe Adams - -	6	2	37

Half of allotment No. 24.

	A.	R.	P.
Grandson - - - -	3	0	0
James Quintall - - -	5	2	3¼
Arthur Quintall, junior - -	5	2	3¼
John Quintall, senior - - -	5	2	3¼
Nathaniel Quintall - - -	5	2	3¼

Some of this land has been further disposed of by the legatees.

James Quintall gave his portion 5a. 2r. 3¼p. to his son J. Pattieson Quintall, who has again disposed of 2a. to James Taylor.

Arthur Quintall gave his portion 5a. 2r. 3¼p. to James Taylor.

John Quintall has his portion in possession.

Nathaniel Quintall has his portion in possession.

Joseph Quintall sold his portion of No. 34, 6a. 2r. 37p., to Chas. Christian.

Cornelius Quintall has his portion in possession.

Charlotte Christian's portion is held by her husband, Chas. Christian.

Phœbe Adams' portion is held by her husband, Jonathan Adams.

There are no transfers, deeds or other documents, nor is there any registration of documents to show the foregoing divisions.

Re Will of late Dinah Quintall, of Norfolk Island.

The original portion granted to Dinah Quintall was No. 87, of 50a. 0r. 39p. This portion she exchanged with A. B. Quintall, for No. 43, of 50a. 3r. 16p.

Dinah Quintall, by will, gives her land to be equally divided amongst the following persons:—

Wm. Quintall.
Martha, wife of Arthur Quintall.
A. B. Quintall.
Louisa, wife of Thos. Buffett.
Susan, wife of F. C. Nobbs.
J. Henry Quintall.
Caleb Quintall.
Chads Christian.

After the death of Dinah Quintall the legatees agreed to again exchange portion No. 43 for portion No. 59, granted to Joshua Henry Quintall, which portion has been divided, but no accurate survey made of the divisions, nor deed issued.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

Previous to dividing the land Chads Christian died leaving his property to Esther, wife of A. B. Quintall. The will of Chads Christian is signed by him, but not witnessed; several persons, however, recognize the signature as that of Chads Christian.

Under this will A. B. Quintall claims Chads Christian's portion of the land, to which all the other legatees agree.

There is no register of the transfer being made in exchanging No. 87 for No. 43; but there is a register of No. 43 having been exchanged by the legatees in Dinah Quintall's will, for No. 59, which they divided.

The division of the land (portion No. 59) is as follows:—

William Quintall, 6a. 2r. 18p., 2 acres of this he subsequently sold to Nat. Satterfield; the remainder is in his possession.

Arthur Quintall, for wife, 6a. 2r. 18p. In his possession.

A. B. Quintall, 13a. 0r. 36p. (including Chads Christian's portion). This has since been sold to J. A. Quintall, who again sold it to F. M. Nobbs.

Thomas Buffett, for wife, 6a. 2r. 18p. Since given by T. Buffett to Mrs. Leonard Christian.

Caleb Quintall, 6a. 2r. 18p. Sold by Caleb's widow to F. C. Nobbs.

F. C. Nobbs, for wife, 6a. 2r. 18p. In his possession.

J. H. Quintall, 6a. 2r. 18p. In possession of his widow, Jane.

For all the above transfers of property no deeds have been issued.

Portion No. 32, 53a. 0r. 3p., granted to Thursday October Christian.

T. O. Christian returned to Pitcairn and sold his land on Norfolk Island for 19 head of cattle to the following persons, to be divided according to the number of cattle supplied by each.

The division of land would be as follows:—

		A.	R.	P.
Wm. Quintall, senior	- 5 cattle	13	3	32
C. D. Christian -	- 4 „	11	0	26
Phillip M'Coy -	- 3 „	8	1	19½
Jacob Christian -	- 3 „	8	1	19½
Ben Christian -	- 4 „	11	0	26
		53	0	3

The above division of the land was approved of by each of the above purchasers in my presence. The sale of the land to these persons is registered in the "Register of Sales," but no division is registered, nor do the purchasers hold any deeds of the divisions. The original Deed of Grant is in the possession of

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APPENDIX G.

Revenue proposed to be raised at Norfolk Island estimated on Returns for 1884.

Rents of Government houses, statement 1 attached - - -	160	10	0
Assessment on stock at large, Appendix E. - - - -	175	16	0
Customs duties, statement 2 attached	136	14	8
Fines, produce of farm - -	100	0	0
Royalty on timber or sale of trees -	50	0	0
	623	0	8

(1.)

Government Houses at the Settlement, Norfolk Island, and proposed Rent.

Present Occupants.	Proposed Rent. £	s.	d.
Co-operative store - - - - - -	10	0	0
J. Robinson - - - - - -	5	0	0
William Champion - - - - - -	5	0	0
William Adams - - - - - -	2	0	0
John Quintall - - - - - -	5	0	0
Henry Quintall - - - - - -	3	0	0
Gregory Quintall, Webb Adams - - - -	4	0	0
Parkins Christian - - - - - -	4	0	0
Jane Quintall (widow) - - - - -	3	0	0
Leonard Christian - - - - - -	3	0	0
Rowland Evans - - - - - -	3	0	0
Captain Edwards - - - - - -	3	0	0
George Evans - - - - - -	6	10	0
— Jackson - - - - - -	4	0	0
Hunt Christian and — Jagger - - -	7	10	0
Mrs. M'Coy (widow) - - - - -	5	0	0
Miriam Christian - - - - - -	8	0	0
Mrs. Nobbs - - - - - -			
Nathaniel Quintall - - - - - -	8	0	0
John Buffett - - - - - -	10	0	0
Joseph Quintall - - - - - -	8	0	0
David Buffett - - - - - -	10	0	0
— Evans - - - - - - -	4	0	0
Phillip M'Coy - - - - - -	8	0	0
Driver Christian - - - - - -	8	0	0
William Quintall - - - - - -	7	10	0
Lindsay Buffett - - - - - -	6	0	0
	150	10	0
Shearing shed - - - - - -	10	0	0
	160	10	0

NORFOLK ISLAND.

(2.)

Revenue—Customs Duties, Land, Agistment, &c.

Consider the best means of raising a reasonable revenue.

Customs.—Imports, 1884. *Computed at New South Wales Tariff*

—	Peacock's Store.	Magistrate.	Mission Store.	Rossiter's Store.	Co-operative Store.	Total.	—
							£ s. d.
Tea, at 3*d.* per lb. - - lbs.	39	—	336	435	200	1,010	12 12 6
Coffee, at 3d. per lb. - lbs.	—	—	12	216	—	228	2 16 2
Sugar, at 6*s.* 8*d.* per cwt. cwt.	5	—	60	65	20	150	50 0 0
Wine, at 5*s.* per gall. - galls.	—	2	12	—	—	14	3 10 0
Beer, at 9*d.* per gall. - galls.	—	4	40	—	—	44	1 13 0
Spirits, at 12*s.* per gall. - galls.	—	24	4	—	—	28	16 16 0
Tobacco, at 2*s.* per lb. - lbs.	43½	—	—	240	210	493½	49 7 0
							136 14 8

APPENDIX H.

Report of Dr. Metcalfe on Health and Sanitary Condition.

[The copy of Dr. Metcalfe's letter is unavoidably held over, for, owing to the hurried manner in which this report had to be got ready to send away by the "Neptune," which only remained three hours, the copy could not be got ready.]

NORFOLK ISLAND.

No. 18.

Col. the Right Hon. F.A. STANLEY, M.P., to Governor the LORD CARRINGTON, G.C.M.G.

MY LORD, Downing Street, January 5, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Lord Augustus Loftus' Despatch of the 4th of November* with copies of a letter and of a report from Mr. Wilkinson in connexion with Norfolk Island.

I request that your Lordship will convey to Mr. Wilkinson the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for his useful work in the Island and for his valuable report.

I have, &.

(Signed) FRED. STANLEY.

The Lord Carrington.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 19.

Governor Sir F. NAPIER BROOME, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Government House, Perth,

MY LORD, April 22nd, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1885, together with a report thereon by Captain Smith, the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) F. NAPIER BROOME.
The Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c.

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* No. 17.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

REPORT on BLUE BOOK for 1885.

From the Hon. the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY to His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for Your Excellency's consideration, a report on the Blue Book for Western Australia for the year 1885.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. S. SMITH,
April 21st, 1886. Acting Colonial Secretary.

1.—*Taxes, Duties, Fees, and all other Sources of Revenue.*

An Act to provide for the licensing of certain persons using guns has added in a small way to the sources whence our revenue is derived.

The buoyancy of the revenue, and the general prosperity of the Colony, suggests the idea that the time has arrived for a revision of the Tariff Act, with a view to reducing or abolishing the duties on certain necessaries of life. On the other hand, the ever-increasing expenditure, necessitated by the development of the Colony, warns us to be cautious in parting with any sources of revenue at present.

At the same time, I am of opinion that a reduction in the postage rate for letters to a uniform charge of one penny throughout the Colony, and in the charge for telegrams to sixpence for the first ten words, would not tend to reduce the revenue derived from those sources, while it would confer a boon on the community at large.

2.—*Treasury Returns—Revenue and Expenditure.*

These returns are of a satisfactory character. Although our expenditure has increased, the buoyancy of the revenue is maintained, leaving us with a credit balance of 89,529*l.* at the end of the year. The revenue for the year amounted to 323,213*l.* and the expenditure to 308,848*l.*, being 32,894*l.* and 17,542*l.* in excess respectively of that of the year 1884.

3.—*Military Expenditure.*

The strength of the Volunteer Force of the Colony at the end of the year was 26 officers and 552 men, and the total expenditure on account of the Volunteer Department, amounted to 3,605*l.*

The expenditure incurred by the Imperial Government in the Colony during the year was as under:—

	£
War Office services - - -	6,422
Treasury services - - -	5,711
Convict services - - - -	13,046
	25,179

4.—*Public Debt.*

The total indebtedness of the Colony, on the 31st December 1885, amounted to 1,288,100*l.*, being about 37*l.* per head of the population.

5.—*Public Works, Railways, and Roads.*

175 miles of railway were open for traffic during the past year, and 2,288 miles of telegraph.

For the repair and upkeep of roads and bridges a sum of 15,813*l.* was granted duringthe year by the Government.

6.—*Population.*

The population of the Colony amounted, on the 31st of December, 1885, to 35,186; being 2,228 in excess of the year previous. 381 immigrants were introduced into the Colony during the year by the Board of Immigration.

7.—*Imports and Exports.*

The imports during the year amounted in value to 650,391*l.*, and the exports to 446,691*l.*, being 129,224*l.* and 40,998*l.* respectively in excess of the previous year.

The total amount of customs duties received during the year was 134,841*l.*, being 16,398*l.* in excess of the previous year; this was due mainly to an increase in the following imports :—

Cabinet and upholstery wares.
Deals, boards, timber, &c.
Drapery and haberdashery.
Earthenware and glass.
Ironmongery.
Oilman's stores.
Ironwork for railways and tramways.
Iron, bar and bolt.
Machinery (other than agricultural).
Bran and pollard.
Candles.
Oats.
Galvanized Iron.
Potatoes.
Tea.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

It is interesting and satisfactory to notice that while there has been a very small increase in the quantity of whiskey, liqueurs, sparkling and still wines imported, there has been a considerable decrease in that of brandy, geneva, gin, and rum imported, as compared with the previous year.

8.—*Shipping.*

	Tonnage.
231 vessels entered inwards in 1884 - -	227,881
232 „ „ 1885 - -	231,761
204 vessels cleared outwards in 1884 - -	215,005
229 „ „ 1885 - -	236,274

9.—*Education.*

There has been a steady increase in the average attendance at both Government and assisted schools.

10.—*Criminal Statistics.*

Crime on the whole is not on the increase.

11.—*Convict tablishment.*

On the 31st December, 1885 the total number of convicts of all classes amounted to 224.

12.—*Agriculture.*

The estimated acreage of cultivated land in the Colony—

In the year 1883 was 58,111 acres
In the year 1884 „ 79,669 „
In the year 1885 „ 77,728 „

By the return of the number of the stock we find :—

	1884.	1885.
Horses - - - -	37,111	34,392
Horned Cattle - - -	71,102	70,408
Sheep - - - -	1,547,061	1,702,719
Goats - - - -	6,035	4,529
Pigs - - - -	20,039	24,280

13.—*Legislation.*

The following statutes were passed by the Legislature:—

No. 1.—An Act to provide for the payment of certain additional and unforeseen expenses in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, over and above the estimates for that year.

No. 2.—An Act to confirm the expenditure for the services of the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, beyond the grants for that year.

No. 3.—An Act to amend the law relating to the branding of live stock.

No. 4.—An Act to explain "The Superannuation Act."

No. 5.—An Act to authorise the further extension of the Eastern Railway.

No. 6.—An Act to amend the Colonial Passengers Ordinances and Acts.

No. 7.—An Act to amend "The Cattle Diseases Ordinance, 1865," and the Imported Stock Acts of 1876, 1877, and 1879.

No. 8.—An Act to amend the Northern District Special Revenue Acts of 1873 and 1878.

No. 9.—An Act to diminish the dangers resulting from bush fires.

No. 10.—An Act to amend "The Dog Act, 1883."

No. 11.—An Act to secure an annuity to Dame Jane Barlee for life.

No. 12.—An Act to provide for the government and discipline of the Volunteer Force when serving without the limits of the Colony.

No. 13.—An Act to repeal "The Law and Parliamentary Library Amendment Act, 1881," and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

No. 14.—An Act to make provision for changing the style of the Municipal Councils of Albany and Geraldton and of other towns in the Colony.

No. 15.—An Act to amend "The Destruction of Rabbits Act, 1883."

No. 16.—An Act to consolidate and amend the law with respect to the manufacturing, importing, keeping, carrying, and selling of gunpowder and other explosive and dangerous substances.

No. 17.—An Act to amend "The Municipal Institutions Act, 1876."

No. 18.—An Act to provide for the licensing of certain persons using guns.

No. 19.—An Act to dissolve the Corporation of "The Governors of the Perth Church of England Collegiate School," and for other purposes.

No. 20.—An Act for the re-appropriation of certain moneys

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

appropriated for the purpose of a telegraph from Roebourne to Derby, and for certain miscellaneous purposes.

No. 21.—An Act to repeal "The Scab Act 1882," and to re-enact the same with amendments.

No. 22.—An Act to further amend "The Customs Ordinance, 1860."

No. 23.—An Act to facilitate the construction and working of tramways.

No. 24.—An Act to bring into operation, in respect of the Colony of Western Australia, an Act of the Imperial Parliament, entitled "An Act to constitute a Federal Council of Australasia."

No. 25.—An Act to appropriate the sum of two hundred and seventy-seven thousand one hundred and seven pounds eleven shillings and fivepence out of the general revenue of the Colony for such services as shall come in course of payment during the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six.

14.—*Concluding Remarks.*

It behoves us to watch with care the undoubted prosperous position of the Colony, with a view to ascertaining what portion of such prosperity may be ephemeral and due to the circulation of borrowed money, and what portion may be lasting and due to the construction of reproductive works, and the introduction of capital as well as labour.

(Signed) M. S. SMITH,
Perth, April 21st, 1886. Acting Colonial Secretary.

BARBADOS.

BARBADOS.

No. 20.

Governor Sir C. C. LEES, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Government House,
MY LORD, Barbados, May 14, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1885, which has been handed to me by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
The Right Hon. (Signed) C. C. LEES,
The Earl Granville, K.G. Governor.
&c. &c.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1885.

Finance.

	£	s.	d.
1. The balance on the 1st of January 1885 was - - -	4,850	2	8½
The revenue for 1885 was - -	145,758	4	11
Making a total of - -	150,608	7	7½
The expenditure for 1885 was -	146,134	9	10
Leaving a balance on the 31st of December 1885 of - -	4,473	17	9½

2. The revenue was nearly the same as during the previous year, but this result was only attained by an increase in July of the duty on ad valorem goods from 4 to 8 per cent., which was calculated to bring in an additional 8,000*l.* per annum, and by the payment into the Treasury of 3,764*l.*, under the Act No. 48, of the 16th October 1885, being unclaimed and undistributed moneys remaining in the hands of public officers. The receipts from customs, in spite of the increases in duties in 1884 and again in 1885, gave a total of 3,759*l.* less than the average of the three previous years.

3. The expenditure, though appearing greater than that of the year 1884 by 2,287*l.*, was really less, as subsidies for more than that amount which could not be met during the previous year were paid off, as well as the subsidies falling due within the year. The greatest economy in every direction was practised, thus enabling the Colony, in the face of the continued depression, to hold a somewhat better position at the close than at the commencement of the year.

4. The revenue and expenditure may be tabulated thus :—

Revenue.

Customs.	Rum Duty.	Other Receipts.	Total.
£ 85,493	£ 22,576	£ 37,689	£ 145,758

Expenditure.

Salaries.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
£ 68,106	£ 78,028	£ 146,134

BARBADOS.

And fell into the several quarters as follows:—

Quarter.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
First - - - -	35,944	36,863
Second - - - -	35,436	32,834
Third - - - -	38,128	38,089
Fourth - - - -	36,250	38,348
Total - - -	145,758	146,134

5. The assets of the Colony on the 31st December 1885 were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance in the treasury - -	4,473	17	9½
Loan - - - -	6,650	0	0
Due on purchase of land - -	250	0	0
Total - - -	11,373	17	9½

Local Revenues.

6. The parochial year commences on the 24th March. The returns of that date give the following as the result of the year 1884–85:—

Revenue.

Balance on 24th March 1884—

	£
Cash - - - -	4,241
Arrears - - - -	15,604
Assessment for parochial purposes -	39,576
Assessment for highway purposes -	8,074
Legislative grant for highways - -	6,450
Total - - -	73,945

Expenditure.

	£	£
Poor relief - - -		22,561
Other parochial expenditure -		21,206
Highways - - -		14,524
Balance: Cash - - -	2,090	
Arrears - -	13,564	
		15,654
Total - - -		73,945

7. The total number of miles of road is 479; the average cost of upkeep was 30*l.* per mile, being 69*l.* in St. Michael's, 33*l.* in St. George's, and 17*l.* in St. Lucy's parish.

Public Debt.

8. The public debt, incurred under the authority of the Public Works Loan Act, 1881, was increased during the year from 15,700*l.* to 20,000*l.*

Military Expenditure.

9. The expenditure by the Imperial Government for military purposes was 53,838*l.* 10*s.*

Savings Bank.

10. The progress of this flourishing institution is shown by the following table, which gives the result at the close of each year :—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount Deposited.	Amount in Deposit.
	£	£	£
1881 - - - -	4,036	26,865	35,671
1882 - - - -	4,628	28,700	40,080
1883 - - - -	5,314	37,251	48,501
1884 - - - -	6,231	38,960	56,543
1885 - - - -	6,878	42,596	61,638

The reserve fund was 2,942*l.* The annual returns showed the following disposition of the funds :—

	£
Mortgages on landed security - -	15,961
Loans on security of parochial rates - -	2,685
English funds - - - -	10,970
Barbados Government debentures - -	17,100
Deposited at interest in the Colonial Bank -	16,900
Current account in Colonial Bank - -	925
Cash in hand - - - - -	39
Total - - -	64,580

Public Works.

11. New public works were not undertaken. The porch to the public buildings was completed, as also was the system of inland telephones by which every police station in the Island is now connected. The total spent under the Loan Act was 3,654*l.* and from general revenue for repairs 4,146*l.*

Legislation.

12. Seventy-six Acts were passed during the annual session which expired on the 10th November 1885; a large number of which were laws governing legal procedure in various directions.

The following are worthy of remark:—

An Act to provide for the payment of the whole salary of the Governor from Colonial funds.

This was passed on the separation of Barbados from the rest of the Windward Islands.

An Act to amend the law relating to the property of married women.

An Act to require members of the General Assembly to be elected by ballot.

An Act to make valid the marriage of a man with the sister of his deceased wife.

An Act to render permanent "The Executive Committee Act, 1881."

Political Franchise.

13. There was no general election to the House of Assembly during the year, but at the end of November, during which month persons can register their right to vote, it was found that 2,126 had so registered, so that the new Franchise Act added about 500 to the list of voters. At the subsequent elections there was a contest in only one parish.

Councils and Assemblies.

14. *Executive Council.*—Major-General Sir C. K. Pearson, K.C.M.G., C.B., succeeded Lieut.-General Browne on the 1st April. Mr. C. C. Knollys, Colonial Secretary, and Mr. C. Reeves, Attorney-General, returned to the Colony and resumed their places on the 4th June and 16th July respectively.

15. *Executive Committee.*—The changes in the Council affected the Committee also, in addition to these Mr. E. T. Grannum was appointed in the place of Mr. S. J. Atwell, resigned, on the 14th August 1885.

16. *Legislative Council.*—No changes.

17. *House of Assembly.*—Mr. T. Peterkin was elected for St. Michael on the 10th August in the place of Mr. J. J. Spencer deceased.

Civil Establishments.

18. Sir C. C. Lees, K.C.M.G., succeeded Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G., as Governor and Commander-in-Chief on the 9th October. His Lordship the Bishop was absent on leave from the 1st July to the 30th December. Sir Charles Packer, Chief

Justice, Mr. C. C. Knollys, Colonial Secretary, and Mr. C. Reeves, Attorney General, resumed their appointments on the 15th March, 4th June, and 16th July respectively. Mr. C. A. King-Harman, Auditor-General, was absent on leave from the 10th August. Mr. C. Messervy, Superintendent of Public Works, was promoted to Grenada in December. His place has since been filled by the appointment of Mr. L. P. Gallwey.

A few minor changes took place.

Pensions.

19. The pension list was decreased by the death of Mr. J. G. Alleyne, who had a pension of 70*l.* per annum, and increased by the addition of the names of the Rev. W. H. B. Bovell at 305*l.* 4*s.* and Mr. R. P. Elliott, Inspector of schools, at 340*l.*

Population.

20. There is no registration system, and correct vital statistics cannot therefore be given. The number of baptisms during the year were 7,887, and the number of burials 4,866. The population of 1881 was 171,452 persons, and is now probably about 175,000 which gives an average of 1,054 to the square mile.

Education.

21. *Elementary Schools.*—On the 31st December 1885, there were 62 primary, 45 combined, and 88 infant schools, with an average attendance of 88, 95, and 81 respectively, or in all 195 elementary schools with an average attendance of 16,859.

The 195 elementary schools are of the following religious denominations, Anglican, 153; Wesleyan, 22; Moravian, 20.

22. *Second Grade Schools.*—Five second grade schools were at work during the year, having 183 pupils, the largest having 94 and the smallest 15.

23. *First Grade Schools.*—Harrison College closed the year with 164 pupils. Its teaching staff consists of eight University men. The Lodge school had 43 pupils. Its staff consists of two University men.

The former of these two schools is in the town and the latter in the country, and both have a boarding establishment attached to them, under the direct supervision of the head master.

The Queen's College for girls had 64 pupils, and its staff consists of a head mistress and four assistant mistresses.

24. *The Training School*, which is attached to Codrington College, was burnt down in the early part of the year, and owing to the depressed state of the sugar market the estates of the society are not in a position to enable them to re-build it.

25. *Codrington College*, which was founded in 1745, and is affiliated to Durham University, is supported by a legacy of General Codrington, administered by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and is the only collegiate institution in the West Indies.

Imports and Exports.

26. The values of imports and exports were as follows :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1862 - - - -	767,974	951,727
1872 - - - -	913,142	1,067,612
1882 - - - -	1,125,030	1,021,444
1885 - - - -	890,690	1,003,893

27. A contrast with the value for the years 1883, 1884, and 1885, shows a decrease in the value of exports in 1885, although the sugar crop of that year was the largest ever made in the Colony.

Years.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1883 - - - -	1,155,341	1,141,133
1884 - - - -	1,156,229	1,318,878
1885 - - - -	890,690	1,003,893

28. The direction of trade was as follows :—

Countries.	Imports from.	Exports to.
	£	£
United Kingdom - -	311,536	342,988
United States - - - -	344,111	370,645
British North America - - -	86,451	115,103
British West Indies and British Guiana	60,627	155,356
Other Countries - - -	87,965	19,801
Total - - -	890,690	1,003,893

29. The imports from Great Britain are chiefly linen and cotton goods, hardware, coal, liquors of all kinds, machinery, and rice. From the United States and North America, breadstuffs, horses and mules, butter, kerosine oil, corn, tobacco, lumber, and salt fish ; rice is also imported largely from Calcutta.

30. The export trade may be divided as follows :—

	£
Staple (sugar, molasses, and rum) -	822,438
Other produce of Colony - -	12,051
Re-exports - - - -	169,404
Total - -	1,003,893

31. The produce or manufacture of the Colony exported, other than the staple, consists of sweet potatoes, lime, petroleum, matches, whale oil, and a few articles in small quantities such as aloes, arrowroot, tamarinds, &c.

Shipping.

32. The following table shows the number and tonnage of vessels that entered during the year :—

Countries from whence.	Number.	Tonnage.
Great Britain - - - -	130	149,429
United States - - - -	149	68,514
British North America - - -	111	18,225
West Indies and British Guiana -	744	170,103
Other Countries - - -	137	47,162
Total - - -	1,271	453,453

33. The above shows an excess of 49,628 tons over that of the previous year, which may be attributed to the fact that from the 1st July, Barbados was made the headquarters in the West Indies of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Agriculture and Manufactures.

34. The number of estates in cultivation was 508, averaging 209 acres each. The total produce was sugar, 67,765 hogsheads, and rum, 303,445 gallons.

Manufactures.—There is a manufactory of sulphur matches in Bridgetown, from which 1,222 gross of matches were exported. The oil wells and whaling station each produce a small quantity of oil, but there is no great enterprise in this direction.

Criminal Statistics.

35. *Police Reports.*—The number of offences reported to the police during the year was 3,941, a decrease of 150 below the number reported the previous year.

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36. *Apprehensions and Summonses.*—The numbers of persons brought before the magistrate's courts were 11,473 as compared with 11,343 in the previous year.

37. The cases were disposed of as follows :—

Convicted - - - -	8,544
Discharged - - -	548
Acquitted - - - -	2,252
Committed - - -	129
Total - -	11,473

38. *Summary Convictions.*

	1885.	Average five years, 1881–5.
Offences against the person - -	2,848	2,453
Prædial larceny - - - -	949	1,037
Other offences against property - -	698	666
Other offences - - - -	4,049	4,092
Total - - -	8,544	8,248

39. The following penalties were imposed on summary conviction :—

Fines - - - -	5,527
Imprisonment in lieu of fine - -	1,270
Peremptory imprisonment - -	1,070
Whippings - - -	192
Bound over to keep the peace -	485
Total - - -	8,544

40. *Superior Courts.*—The number of cases tried in the superior courts was 167, with the following results :—

Judgment for the Crown - -	129
„ „ prisoner - -	20
Fell through for want of prosecution -	18
	167

41. The convictions were divided as follows :—

	1885.	Average five years, 1881–5.
Offences against the person - -	64	53
Prædial larceny - - - -	—	—
Other offences against property - -	58	66
Other offences - - - -	7	10

Among the convictions for serious offences were murder 2 (one of whom received a free pardon), and rape, 2.

Gaols.

42. There were 2,987 persons committed to gaol in 1885 as follows :—

	1885.	1884.
For debt - - - -	102	99
For safe custody - - -	340	219
For punishment - - -	2,545	2,311
Total - - -	2,987	2,629

43. Divided as follows :—

	1885.	1884.
Men - - - - -	1,480	1,186
Women - - - - -	1,400	1,339
Juveniles - - - -	107	104
Total - - -	2,987	2,629

44. The daily average was as follows :—

	In prisons.	On sick list.
Men - - - - -	266	49
Women - - - - -	121	—
Juveniles - - - -	8	—
Total - - -	395	49

BARBADOS.

There were five deaths during the year (one being an execution).

45. The male prisoners are employed within the prison at a cooperage, mat-making, and a bakery. Outside they are employed in the quarries, on the roads, and on various public works.

46. The net value of their labour was estimated as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
At the cooperage - -	38	17	8½
Works, buildings, &c. -	752	8	3
Bakery - - -	950	19	2
Total - -	1,722	5	1½

Health.

47. The health of the Island was good throughout the year.

(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
May 15, 1886.

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PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS FOR 1884 AND 1885.

(*In continuation of* [C.–4842.] *of June* 1886.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1886.

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1886.

[C.—4904.]

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MAURITIUS.

SEYCHELLES AND RODRIGUES.

No. 1.

Governor Sir J. POPE HENNESSY, K.C.M.G., to Colonel the Right Hon. F. A. STANLEY, M.P.

Government House, Mauritius,
January 23, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, a summary of the Blue Book of this Colony for 1884, prepared by Mr. H. N. D. Beyts, C.M.G., the Acting Colonial Secretary.

In addition to the facts set forth by Mr. Beyts, my report may properly be confined to a few of the more important points bearing on the past and present state of the Colony.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Some recent reductions of taxation, mainly in the direction of abolishing license dues on petty trades and lowering the harbour dues, have brought the average annual revenue to about 700,000*l.* This sum enables the Colony to pay all its expenses, including the cost of the Imperial troops stationed here.

MAIL SUBSIDIES.

The Mauritius Government pays an annual subsidy to the Messageries Maritimes Company of Rs. 80,000 and to the Castle Line Steamers of Rs. 60,000. It has also guaranteed to pay the Eastern Telegraph Company a subsidy of 10,000*l.* a year, should telegraphic communication be established by the Company between Mauritius and England.

SUGAR PRODUCTION.

The total value of the sugar exported in 1884 exceeded Rs. 35,000,000. Comparing the area of Mauritius with that of the other colonies and with British India this is the largest production of agricultural wealth, in proportion to the size of the country, in any of Her Majesty's possessions abroad.

The commercial crisis that affected all the sugar producing colonies has been met in Mauritius, not by making demands on Her Majesty's Government for any modifications of tariffs or any suggestion that would compromise the principles of Free

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Trade, but by the practice of greater personal economy on the part of the planters and an effort to obtain a larger production of sugar from the cane.

The Board of Trade has recognized the intelligent and practical action of the Mauritian planters by presenting to both Houses of Parliament in England translations of the report on this subject of Mr. William Newton, the Chairman of the "Société d' Agriculture de Maurice."

TREATMENT OF INDIAN IMMIGRANTS.

I concur with my predecessors, Sir Arthur Phayre and Sir George Bowen, that the Indian coolies who work on the estates in this island are well treated by the Mauritian planters. Sir Arthur Phayre, on leaving this Government eight years ago, placed on record his opinion that the Indians who come here are far better off than the corresponding class in India.

The defective system which had been in force, of entrusting the medical charge of coolie ships to unqualified men, was brought to my notice shortly after my arrival, by a report of Mr. W. Greene, then Acting Protector of Immigrants. The report informed me of the fact that a gentleman who had been sent from Mauritius to Calcutta in medical charge of time-expired immigrants had been declared by the Medical Inspector of Emigrants at Calcutta to be incompetent to take charge of emigrants from Calcutta to Mauritius.

I referred Mr. Greene's report to the Protector of Immigrants, who was then in India inquiring into the working of the Mauritius Emigration Agencies, and called for his remarks and recommendations. The Protector, however, said:—"It appears "to me unnecessary at present to disturb the existing rules regu- "lating the employment of medical men for Mauritius coolie "ships."

Complaints continued, however, from the planters that the immigrants who had arrived from India were in an unsatisfactory state of health. The engagements of some had to be cancelled almost at once, and others were found totally disabled in the Immigration Depôt. On the whole, it was manifest that adequate protection had not been afforded to these Indian immigrants. On offering the question to the Chief Medical Officer for his observations he reported that:—"The employment of "unqualified practitioners is obviously open to grave objections," and "it would, in my opinion, be advisable to engage qualified "medical men for the service, and to discontinue the system of "placing unqualified persons in medical charge of coolie vessels."

As the Protector did not concur in this opinion, the question was referred to the Council of Government, who unanimously adopted a report of the Finance Committee recommending that a vote should be passed to authorise the payment of "whatever "additional remuneration may be required to secure duly quali- "fied doctors" for coolie vessels. This resolution has been approved by Her Majesty's Government, and a qualified staff of

Medical Officers have been appointed. The planters and other ratepayers have willingly incurred this increased charge as it is likely to diminish the sickness and mortality in the coolie ships.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL BUDGET.

The objections taken to the ecclesiastical budget, on the ground that the grants are distributed unfairly, are set forth in the dissent.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution of Mauritius has been altered after careful consideration. On arriving here in 1883, I found the Legislature was a Crown Council of 17 members, all nominated by the Crown, nine (including the Governor) being ex-officio and eight un-official.

Now the Legislature consists of 28 members, that is, nine (including the Governor) being ex-officio, four salaried officers appointed by name, five nominee unofficial members and 10 elected members. This gives the unofficial element a majority of two over the purely official element.

THE ELECTED MEMBERS.

The first elections have just closed. The 10 members elected are all of the Mauritian race, and are as follows:—

Dr. O. Beaugeard, Mr. G. de Coriolis } Port Louis.
Mr. Vincent Geffroy—Rivière Noire.
Mr. C. Antelme, C.M.G.—Plaines Wilhems.
Mr. Henry Léclézio—Moka.
Mr. Charles Planel—Pamplemousses.
Mr. Edgar Antelme—Rivière du Rempart.
Mr. Henri Adam—Flacq.
Sir Virgile Naz, K.C.M.G.—Savanne.
Mr. Henri Portal—Grand Port.

These gentlemen represent every importan division of the creole community.

THE FRANCHISE.

The franchise fixed by the Queen's Letters Patent of September 1885 is as follows:—

(1.) Ownership of immovable property of an annual value of Rs. 300, or a monthly value of Rs. 25.
(2.) Ownership of movable property of the value of Rs. 3,000.
(3.) Payment of a monthly rent of Rs. 25.
(4.) Receipt of a monthly salary of Rs. 50.
(5.) Payment of license duty to the amount of not less than Rs. 200 per annum.

THE ELECTORAL BODY.

The Registrar General has furnished an analysis of the list of inscribed electors, of which the following is a summary. The total number of electors is 4,059. Of these 3,163 are Roman Catholics; 542 are Protestants; 26 Swedenborgians; 5 Free-thinkers; 151 Musulmans; 141 Hindoos; 6 Buddhists; 1 Jew, and 24 unknown. As regards their nationality, 3,360 were born in Mauritius; 266 in India; 258 in the United Kingdom; 102 in France and French Colonies; and the rest (73) in the dependencies of Mauritius and other countries.

FLOGGING AND PRISON DISCIPLINE.

A few months after my arrival in Mauritius the printed Minutes of the Port Louis Prison Committe (a Government Board mainly composed of officials), having been submitted to me on the 18th of September 1883, I called for some further information respecting the death from heart disease of an Indian prisoner named Seechurn.

From the reports transmitted in reply to my inquiry, I ascertained that he had been discharged from the hospital on the 28th of June, having been 106 days in hospital during the first six months of 1883; that he was flogged with the cat-o'nine tails on the back on the 23rd July, and that he died of heart disease within a fortnight, that is, on the 4th of August 1883. From these and some other facts that the somewhat imperfect records of the prison and the prison hospital disclosed I felt it necessary to appoint a committee of inquiry, and for that purpose I selected two experienced Heads of Departments, the Acting Colonial Secretary and the Storekeeper General, adding to them one unofficial member, Mr. Louis Rouillard, one of the most eminent members of the local bar.

The committee examined nine witnesses, and had the official papers and returns, such as could be found, placed before them.

The report and evidence extended beyond the case of Seechurn, inasmuch as two other cases occurred whilst the committee was sitting, one, that of an Indian prisoner named Juggabunden, whom I was asked to transfer from the prison to the lunatic asylum, and who had been flogged four times in the preceding year, and another case that of an Indian named Kamadu who committed suicide after being sentenced to extra shot-drill as a prison punishment.

The facts disclosed by this inquiry showed a greater laxity on the part of the authorities here in the administration of prison discipline, including corporal punishment, than I had seen in any other Colony.

The committee of inquiry recommended the abolition of flogging as a prison punishment. They said:—"We believe "that by a better system of management, one which combines "rewards with penalties, and makes the deprivation of rewards "itself a punishment, flogging may, as experience has abundantly "proved elsewhere, safely be done away with altogether. We "believe that cruel and barbarous as the punishment of flogging "is, dangerous to life as it frequently proves, it is in most cases "quite ineffectual as a deterrent, while it always tends to harden "and brutalize the criminals on whom it is inflicted, without "exercising upon them any reformatory influence."

The Committee quote the evidence of Dr. O. Beaugeard, who was for 16 years in charge of the Port Louis Hospital, and who they describe as one of the ablest medical practitioners in the Colony. He has recently been returned at the head of the poll as senior member for Port Louis under the new elective system. He laid before the committee a report he had himself sent to the Government some years before, respecting an Indian immigrant who had received, by orders of the Prison Committee, two floggings of 30 lashes each. In this report, Dr. Beaugeard had put the following facts on record:—

"Vengrasamy was admitted into the Civil Hospital on the 1st of June 1865 with the portion of skin covering his back—where the lashes had been inflicted—showing a tendency to slough away. This actually took place within a few days, and on the 7th following a huge gaping wound appeared, of 10 to 12 inches in diameter, baring in different places the muscles of the back. The patient during that time was labouring under irritative fever, a consequence of the nature of his ailment, and he soon began to give signs of decline, the wound showing no tendency to cicatrize. In spite of cordials, quinine, wine, and good diet, administered as early as from the 19th June, he continued to sink gradually; the wound never putting on, even at its edges, any favourable aspect in spite of all local applications, and, on the contrary, the intermuscular cellular tissue continuing to slough away in bits, until the muscles of that part of the back became completely exposed,—small portions of them also dying away. The patient at last died on the 16th of July following in an anæmic and emaciated condition which had reached its extreme point. The autopsy of the body showed that death had been accelerated by pneumonia of a low type invading the base of the right lung. The course of the disease, the mode of death, and the post-mortem examination, leave in my mind no doubt that the death was the ultimate result of the injury inflicted upon the prisoner Vengrasamy."

In reply to the question as to whether flogging was necessary as a prison punishment, Dr. Beaugeard said:—"I do not recommend that the practice of flogging prisoners with a cat-o'nine "tails on the back be continued. The rattan is just as bad. I "should not recommend the maintenance of flogging as a prison "punishment, in whatever way it might be administered. I am

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" decidedly against it. Discipline should be enforced by other " means."

Dr. Chastellier, who had some years official experience as prison surgeon, and who is described by the committee to be one of the most intelligent members of the medical profession in Mauritius, concluded his evidence by saying:—

" I believe that the shock produced by the cat may in certain cases produce death by rupture of the spleen. Besides, disease of the heart or lungs may be developed or accelerated by severe flogging. The flogging which I saw inflicted when I was prison surgeon was a most severe punishment. I unhesitatingly recommend that flogging, as a prison punishment, be done away with at once."

From the returns obtained by the committee it appeared that for many years past the lash had been used every week in the prisons of Mauritius, but prison discipline had not improved.

A new Superintendent of Prisons, who arrived from England in 1883, on examining the archives of the prison, reported that as regards the floggings inflicted in Mauritius in the preceding 10 years " there were numerous floggings administered in Mauritius " for offences which in England would be punished by no more " than a few days punishment diet." According to the tables he prepared, the number of prisoners flogged here during that time, who would probably not have been subjected to the same treatment in England, was 540.

The Mauritian community continue to be opposed to flogging, and they are indignant at the injury that has been inflicted by the cat-o'nine tails on the Indian prisoners. The Mauritian press quote the arguments they used for years past, against the flogging system, which they have consistently denounced as inhuman and demoralizing.

All this was referred to by the Reform Committee when they asked Her Majesty's Government to change the constitution of the Colony; and speaking in the Council of Government as the Vice-President of the Reform Committee, Mr. Adam, who has now been elected in the new Council as member for Flacq, quoted the arguments used by the reformers when praying Lord Derby for such a measure of local government as would put an end to the domination of the official vote in matters of purely local concern; and he dwelt upon the fact that he himself and other Mauritians in the Council of Government had been, year after year, outvoted on this subject by the officials.

Mr. Adam asserted that to have such a brutalizing practice forced upon the Mauritian race was not only injurious to prison discipline, but was a source of discontent throughout the Colony; and he pointed out that the more enlightened countries on the continent of Europe took the same view of corporal punishment as the Mauritians.

Mr. Adam was able to strengthen his political argument by quoting a return prepared by the Superintendent of Prisons

showing that with the practical abolition of flogging for the last two years there has been a decline in prison offences.

Years.	Floggings.	Prison offences.	Ratio of prison offences to 100 prisoners.
1882 - - -	76	3,557	8
1883 - - -	21	2,458	6
1884 - - -	—	1,600	4
1885 up to September -	—	1,052	4

Whilst flogging has been practically abolished for the last two years, a system of rewards and remissions of punishment for good conduct and hard work has been introduced, and this has, no doubt, also contributed to the improvement in prison discipline that the Superintendent reports.

THE NEW PRISON.

The question of constructing a Central Prison in a healthier district than Port Louis has been considered by the local Government for the last 16 years. A suitable site was finally selected in 1884 on the high land at Beau Bassin, and the greater part of the building is now erected. The Surveyor General hopes to complete it this year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSY.

The Right Hon. F. A. Stanley, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

SUMMARY on the MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK for 1884.

I.—TAXATION.

The following changes were made in 1884 in the taxes of the Colony :—

(1.) By Article 9 of Ordinance No. 13 of 1884, a duty of six cents of a rupee per ton register is made leviable on every ship arriving at Diego Garcia, except Her Majesty's ships, foreign men-of-war, and vessels registered in the Colony and paying tonnage dues twice a year at Mauritius.

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(2.) By Ordinance No. 18 of 1884–85, the following dues were made leviable on vessels entering or leaving the harbour of Port Louis:—

(1.) *Pilotage.*

	Rs.	c.
a. For pilotage inwards, and mooring:—per ton of register - - - -	0	12
b. For unmooring, and pilotage outwards:—per ton of register - - -	0	12
c. For the pilotage, mooring, and unmooring of any steam vessel receiving a subsidy from this Colony for the carriage of mails:—		
If the mail service be monthly:—per month - - - -	75	00
If the service be fortnightly:—per month - - - -	150	00
d. For the pilotage inwards and mooring, of any steamer entering the harbour merely for the purpose of taking coals, provisions, or water:—per ton of register -	0	03
e. For the unmooring and pilotage outwards of any such steamer:—per ton of register	0	03

(2.) *Towage.*

a. For every vessel not above 100 tons -	20	00
b. For every vessel above 100 tons, and not exceeding 200 tons - - -	25	00
c. For every vessel above 200, and not exceeding 400 tons:—per ton of register -	0	15
d. For every vessel above 400 tons:—60 rupees for the first 400 tons, and for every ton in excess of 400 tons - -	0	05

(3.) *Anchorage.*

a. For every vessel breaking bulk or receiving cargo:—per ton of register -	0	20*
b. For every vessel trading with Madagascar, Réunion, or the Dependencies of Mauritius:—per ton of register -	0	07†
c. For every vessel not breaking bulk nor receiving cargo:—per ton of register -	0	05‡

* The total amount charged under this head not to exceed 150 rupees.
† This charge not to be levied more than twice a year.
‡ The total amount charged under this head not to exceed 75 rupees.

	Rs.	c.
d. For moving any vessel from one berth to another in the harbour:—per ton of register - - - -	0	05*
e. For swinging any vessel alongside of a hulk - - - - -	10	00
f. For re-mooring any vessel - -	10	00
g. For any vessel remaining swung on warps above 24 hours, or above 48 hours when the Harbour Master has certified in writing that the vessel was prevented by unfavourable winds from leaving the harbour at the end of 24 hours after having been swung:—		
If under 100 tons:—per diem -	10	00
If of 100 tons or more:—per diem -	30	00

(4.) *Hire of Chains, Anchors, and Boats.*

a. For every vessel not above 150 tons:—		
One anchor:—per diem - -	0	50
One chain:—per diem - - -	0	50
b. For vessels above 150 tons:—		
One anchor:—per diem - -	1	25
One chain:—per diem - - -	1	25
c. For the use of mooring chains or anchors placed around Trou Fanfaron:—		
For each vessel not above 100 tons:— per diem - - - -	0	50
For each vessel above 100 and not above 400 tons:—per diem -	1	00
For each vessel above 400 tons:—per diem - - - -	2	00
d. For the use of a launch (manned):—per diem - - - -	15	00

Exemptions.

No anchorage dues are charged on vessels entering the harbour in distress, or for repairs, if they do not break bulk or receive cargo; or if they discharge cargo solely for the purpose of repairs and the whole of such cargo be re-shipped—except such portion thereof as may be condemned as being damaged.

No anchorage dues are charged on steamers or other vessels receiving a subsidy from the Colony for the carriage of mails, or chartered either by the Imperial or the local Government for any other purpose.

No pilotage or anchorage dues are charged on the following vessels:—

(*a.*) British or foreign men-of-war or transports, and vessels belonging to the Government of Mauritius.

* The total amount charged under this head not to exceed 30 rupees.

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(*b.*) Vessels breaking bulk at the Bell-Buoy, and discharging cargo to the extent of more than 25 tons, or landing more than five horses, mules, donkeys, or horned cattle; or 20 sheep, pigs, or goats.

(*c.*) Immigrant vessels landing coolies or surplus stores from Bell-Buoy.

(*d.*) Vessels touching at Port Louis without entering the harbour on their way to some other port.

Vessels Abandoned.

All vessels abandoned in the harbour and sold have to be broken up or fitted for sea within six months from the date of sale, subject to a charge of Rs. 10 per diem for every day that every such vessel shall remain not broken up or not fitted for sea after the lapse of six months.

Abandoned vessels are required to have keepers and proper moorings, under a penalty not exceeding Rs. 500.

(3.) By Ordinance No. 19 of 1884-85 persons exercising the under-mentioned callings were exempted from license duties:—

a. Bakers.
b. Shoemakers.
c. Tailors.
d. Milliners.
e. Basket-makers.
f. Mattress-makers.
g. Tinsmiths.
h. Umbrella-makers.
i. Brush-makers.
j. Candle-makers.
k. Lucifer match-makers.
l. Soap-makers.
m. Dyers.
n. Cakemakers.
o. Tea and coffee sellers.

All persons exercising these callings have power to sell the articles respectively manufactured by them, without paying license-duties.

p. Sellers of milk, butter, and other dairy produce.
q. Sellers and hawkers of cattle.
r. Poulterers.
s. Barbers.
t. Hawkers of haberdashery.
u. Hawkers and sellers of colonial produce, except spirituous liquors, tobacco, and timber.
v. Bread hawkers and sellers.

II.—Revenue and Expenditure.

	Rs.	c.
The revenue of 1884 was - -	8,609,627	92
Showing a decrease of - - -	283,027	27
as compared with the revenue of 1883, which was - - - -	8,892,655	19
The expenditure of 1884 was - -	9,162,442	04
Showing an increase of - -	783,097	23
over the expenditure of 1883, which amounted to - - -	8,379,344	81

The ratio of the revenue to the population was Rs. 23.22 per head.

The ratio of the expenditure to the population was Rs. 24.71 per head.

III.—Assets and Liabilities.

1. Assets and liabilities of the Commissioners of Currency :—

		Rs.	c.
Assets - - - -		3,682,261	20
Liabilities - - -		3,332,750	00
	Surplus -	349,511	20

2. Assets and liabilities of the Government Savings-Bank :—

		Rs.	c.
Assets - - - -		3,228,658	53
Liabilities	Amount due to Depositors - -	3,122,101	61
	Interest - -	106,556	92
	Total -	3,228,658	53

3. Assets and liabilities of the Curatelle :—

		Rs.	c.
Assets - - - -		366,347	34
Liabilities	Capital - -	360,037	78
	Interest - -	6,309	56
	Total -	366,347	34

4. Assets and liabilities of the Treasury Proper:

	Rs.	c.
Assets - - - -	5,386,656	03
Liabilities - - -	1,583,120	49
Surplus -	3,803,535	54

IV.—RAILWAY DEBTS.

The railway debts stood as follows on the 31st December 1884:—

	£
Mauritius railway debentures payable 15th February 1895 and 15th January 1896 -	240,900
Savanne railway 4½ per cent. loan payable by annual drawing in and from 1881 -	96,900
Moka Railway 4½ per cent. loan payable by annual drawings in and from 1884 -	105,000
Consolidated 4 per cent. loan payable by annual drawings from 1882 - -	306,300
Total - - -	749,200

V.—CURRENCY.

Amount of currency notes in circulation on the 31st of December 1884:—

	£	s.	d.
Issue of 1849 - -	518	7	2
„ of 1860 - - -	3,718	10	0
Total	4,236	17	2

Issue of 1876:—	Rs.
In the banks of the Colony -	610,610
In the hands of the public -	2,722,140
Total	3,032,750

VI.—SAVINGS BANK.

	Rs.	c.
The amount deposited in 1884 was -	1,282,451	00
This amount compared to that of 1883 shows a decrease of - - -	62,564	00
The amount deposited in 1883 being -	1,345,015	00
The total sum standing to the credit of depositors, including the interest due to them for 1884, was - - -	3,228,658	53

Of this sum, Rs. 1,574,261.62 belonged to the Indian population.

The number of depositors increased from 16,399 in 1883 to 16,969 in 1884;—7,790 of these belonged to the Indian population.

VII.—CURATELLE.

The deposits including interest amounted to Rs. 366,347 34.
The assets consisted of the following sums:—

	Rs.	c.
(*a.*) Cash balance in local banks -	151,055	54
(*b.*) Invested in England on account of the Curatelle - -	213,780	98
(*c.*) In hands of Crown Agents -	1,510	82
Total - -	366,347	34

VIII.—FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF PORT LOUIS.

	Rs.	c.
Balance on hand on 1st January 1884 - - - -	55,863	40
Revenue and receipts on account during 1884 - - -	533,354	18
Total - - -	589,217	58
Expenditure and payments on account during 1884 - - -	564,777	21
Surplus - -	24,440	37

Debenture Debt of the Municipal Corporation.

	Principal.	Interest.	Total.
	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1884 - - - -	30,000	514 15 1	30,514 15 1
1885 - - - -	36,700	5,227 0 0	41,927 0 0
1886 - - - -	13,080	3,715 0 0	16,795 0 0
1887 - - - -	10,760	2,840 0 0	13,600 0 0
1888 - - - -	30,200	1,370 0 0	31,570 0 0
1889 - - - -	9,240	116 0 0	9,356 0 0
	129,980	13,782 15 1	143,762 15 1

IX.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The military contribution paid by the Colony in 1884 amounted to Rs. 183,783. 32.

The troops in the Colony at the end of the year were as follows:—

Staff	10
Royal Artillery	87
Royal Engineers	10
Detachment 1st battalion Welsh Regiment	244
Ordnance Store Corps	2
Corps of Ordnance Artificers	1
Army Hospital Corps	9
Total	363

The total military expenditure amounted to 40,400*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*

X.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Exclusive of specie and bullion, the value of imports in 1884 amounted to Rs. 27,577,908 and that of exports to Rs. 38,496,431.

In 1883 the imports were valued at Rs. 27,415,272 and the exports at Rs. 37,970,500,—exclusive of specie and bullion.

The rate of imports per head of population was as follows during 1883 and 1884:—

	Rs. c.
1883	76 06
1884	79 92

The rate of exports per head of population was as follows during 1883 and 1884:—

	Rs c.
1883	106 05
1884	106 31

The exports of sugar in 1883 and 1884 were as follows:—

	Quantity.	Value.
	Kilog.	Rs.
1883	117,420,256	34,851,222
1884	125,655,946	35,544,931
Increase	8,235,690	693,709

The value of each of the other products exported was as follows:—

	Rs.
Rum	448,668
Vanilla	323,447
Aloe-fibre	86,295
Molasses	12,274
Cocoanut-oil	53,788
Raw hides	17,917
Lime	267

XI.—SHIPPING.

Under this head the year 1884, compared with 1883, shows the following differences:—

Tonnage.

	1883.	1884.	Increase.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Inwards	330,412	380,649	50,237
Outwards	326,806	378,763	51,957

Number of Ships.

	1883.	1884.	Increase.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Inwards	577	595	18
Outwards	571	593	22

XII.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated resident population on the 31st December 1884 was as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
General population	61,447	55,589	117,036
Indian population	150,946	102,784	253,730
Totals	212,393	158,373	370,766

MAURITIUS.

As compared with the population of 1883 that of 1884 shows an increase of 9,672, viz. :—

	Male	Females.	Totals.
General population - -	1,738	882	2,620
Indian population - -	3,658	3,194	7,052
Totals - - -	5,596	4,076	9,672

The births registered in 1884 stand thus :—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
General population - -	2,292	2,157	4,449
Indian population - -	4,923	4,786	9,709
Totals - - -	7,215	6,943	14,158

The births during 1884 show an increase of 1,540 over those of 1883.

The deaths registered in 1884 were as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
General population - -	1,908	1,787	3,695
Indian population - -	4,582	2,970	7,552
Totals - - -	6,490	4,757	11,247

The number of deaths in 1884 shows a decrease of 1,523 compared with 1883.

The birth-rate in the total population was 38·1 per 1,000, the death-rate, 30·3 per 1,000.

As compared with 1883, the death-rate shows a decrease of 5·1 per 1,000, and the birth-rate an increase of 3·1 per 1,000.

The number of still-births in 1884 was 1,007, showing a decrease of 106 compared with 1883; of 100 compared with 1882; and of 223 compared with 1881. As compared with 1874 the still-births of 1884 show a decrease of 15·2 per 1,000.

Judging from the number of deaths registered, the state of the public health in 1884 was not so bad as in the two previous years. There was a decrease of 1,523 compared with 1883, and of 1,316 compared with 1882.

The number of suicides in 1884 was the same as in 1883 :—42.

XIII.—IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR.

As the following statement shows, the total number of immigrants introduced in 1884 was 6,389, *i.e.*, 4,474 more than in 1883 :—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
From Calcutta - - -	2,459	1,088	3,547
„ Madras - - -	1,991	851	2,842
Totals - - -	4,450	1,939	6,389

The average cost of introduction per male statute-adult was Rs. 144·80.

The number of coolies who left the Colony last year was smaller than during the two previous years, as shown by the following statement :—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
1880 - - - -	1,731	614	2,345
1881 - - - -	1,180	374	1,554
1882 - - - -	1,704	624	2,328
1883 - - -	1,766	640	2,406
1884 - - -	1,362	491	1,853

Of the coolies who left in 1884 :—

986 - - -	went to	Calcutta
430 - - -	„	Madras
339 - - -	„	Bombay
87 - - -	„	Tranquebar
8 - - -	„	Réunion
1 - - -	„	Natal
1 - - -	„	Pondicherry
1 - - -	,	Madagascar.

MAURITIUS.

Amongst the coolies who left the Colony in 1884, 297 were natives of Mauritius.

The proportion of females to males in the departures of 1884 was 36·0 per cent., *i.e.*, 0·2 per cent. less than in 1883.

The amount of money taken away by the Indians who left the Colony through the Immigration Department was Rs. 320,882.

The immigrant population in the Colony on the 31st of December 1884 numbered 120,241 souls, *i.e.*, 1,192 more than in 1883.

The centesimal proportion of females to males in the immigrant population increased from 44·28 in 1880 to 46·10 in 1884.

The labouring population on estates, on the 30th of June 1884, was 129,064.

The mortality on sugar estates amounted to 3,581, *i.e.*, 335 less than in 1883. This feature is the more favourable as the population of the estates was larger in 1884.

The decrease previously noticed in the number of labourers who entered into written contracts, showed itself very markedly in 1884:—

	No. of Labourers. engaged.
1880 - - - - -	55,149
1881 - - - -	52,456
1882 - - - - -	49,605
1883 - - - -	48,738
1884 - - - - -	45,666

XIV.—EDUCATION.

In December 1884 there were 59 Government schools and 61 aided schools.

The average attendance was 4,772 in the former and 3,747 in the latter; which showed the following increases:—

In Government schools - -	496
In aided schools - - -	577
Total increase -	1,073

The cost to Government of each pupil on the rolls was as follows:—

In the Government school, Rs. 19.17, *i.e.*, R. 0.37 less than in 1883.

In the aided schools, Rs. 11.03, *i.e.*, Rs. 1.27 more than in 1883.

Of the aided schools 41 were under Roman Catholic managers, 17 under the Church of England managers, and three under Presbyterian managers.

The number of pupils in the Royal College and the Royal College schools at the end of 1883 and 1884 were as follow :—

	1883.	1884.
Royal College proper - -	132	141
„ „ School, Port Louis -	234	226
„ „ „ Curepipe -	174	163
Totals - - -	540	530

The sums disbursed for educational purposes in 1884 were as follows :—

	Rs.	c.
Royal College (including administration expenses) - - -	171,544	42
Government schools (exclusive of administration expenses) - -	158,647	15
Aided schools (exclusive of administration expenses) - - -	64,669	75
Administration expenses of Government and aided schools - -	22,914	21
Total cost of primary schools -	246,231	11
Industrial education - -	1,569	30
Total expenditure - -	419,344	83*
The total expenditure in 1883 was -	411,909	48*
Decrease of expenditure in 1884 -	7,435	35

XV.—Judicial Statistics.

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1884 was 25,687, *i.e.*, 972 less than in 1883.

The total number of convictions in the inferior courts was 14,224, *i.e.*, 1,955 less than in 1883.

* The sums spent in Rodrigues are not included in these figures.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows:—

	1883.	1884.
For offences against the person -	36	32
„ „ „ property -	48	42
„ other offences - - -	2	2
The acquittals were as follows:—		
In the inferior courts - -	4,817	2,763
In the Supreme Court -	26	16

XVI.—GAOLS.

The total number of persons committed in 1884 was 7,179, *i.e.*, 231 more than in 1883.

34	were imprisoned	for debt.
1,931	„	for nonpayment of fines and costs.
1,272	„	for safe custody till trial, or want of security.
3,942	„	for offences against the criminal laws.

The above-mentioned committals of 1884 include 1,463 under the Vagrancy Law, 115 less than in 1883; and 78 removals to the Juvenile Reformatory, five less than during 1883.

The sentences of imprisonment for offences against the criminal laws were as follows:—

For five years or more - - -	21
For one year or more - - -	126
For more than three months and less than one year - - - -	552
For three months or less - - -	3,243
Total - -	3,942

XVII.—ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

In Mauritius (exclusive of the Dependencies) the adherents of the churches supported by the Government were, according to the census of 1881, as follows:—

Roman Catholics - - -	108,000
Protestants - - -	8,000

The number of ministers were as follows :—

Roman Catholic Church - - -	48
Church of England - - - -	17
Presbyterian Church - - -	3

The expenses incurred by the Government in 1884 for the ecclesiastical establishments were as follows :—

—	Establishments.	Grants in aid of Stipends.	For Missions.	Building Grants.	Total.	Rate per Member of each Church.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Roman Catholic Church -	66,677 85	2,500 00	4,910 00	7,350 00	81,437 85	0 75
Church of England -	31,514 31	2,749 92	5,909 90	3,964 31	44,138 44	6 18
Presbyterian Church -	2,499 96	2,642 84	180 00	—	5,322 80	
	100,692 12	7,892 76	10,999 90	11,314 31	130,899 09	—

XVIII.—Botanical Gardens.

The number of persons who visited the gardens during the last two years were as follows :—

——	1883.	1884.
Pamplemousses - - -	113,620	132,503
Curepipe - - - -	21,908	11,680
Total - -	135,528	144,183

XIX.—Forests and Crown Lands.

The expenditure incurred for the purchase of lands for afforestation purposes during 1884 was as follows :—

	Arpents.
Land acquired under Ordinance 10 of 1881 - - - - -	16,087
	Rs. c.
Cost - - - - -	722,069 83

	Arpents.
Land acquired previous to Ordinance 10 of 1881 - - - -	1,505

	Rs.	c.
Cost - - - - -	100,345	74
Indemnity paid to owners of land included in mountain reserves - - -	4,533	50
The value of land sold amounted to -	2,806	50
The amount of rent accruing from Crown lands was - - - -	34,591	54
The total working expenses of the Forest Department in 1884 amounted to -	150,433	46

XX.—RAILWAYS.

Comparative Statement of the Railway Revenue and Expenditur of 1883 *and* 1884.

——	1883.	1884.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Revenue - - -	1,766,432 06	1,740,608 56	25,823 50
Expenditure - -	1,180,289 93	1,159,609 22	20,671 71
Excess of revenue over expenditure -	586,151 13	580,999 34	—

XXI.—POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

The gross revenue of the Post Office increased from Rs. 75,80 in 1883 to Rs. 78,317 in 1884.

The letters, post-cards, and newspapers which passed throug the office were as follows:—

——	Letters.	Post-cards.	Newspapers.
1883 - - - -	892,574	13,777	882,068
1884 - - -	901,759	16,188	906,470
Increase -	9,185	2,411	24,402

The postal money-order business showed an increase c Rs. 18,000.45.

	Rs.	c.
1883 - - - -	223,924	91
1884 - - - -	241,925	36

The gross revenue of the telegraph branch in 1884 amounted to Rs. 20,339.83; it was Rs. 19,180.14 in 1883.

XXII.—OBSERVATORY.

The following are some of the principal remarks in the Report submitted by Dr. C. Meldrum, the learned Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory, for the year 1884:—

The mean temperature of the air was 73·0°, against an average of 73·9° for the last 10 years. The highest temperature was 86·0° on the 9th of January and the 19th of December, and the lowest, 54·1° on the 22nd of August.

The mean atmospheric pressure, reduced to sea-level, was 30·058 inches, against an average of 30·082 for the last 10 years. The highest pressure was 30·368 on the 3rd of September, and the lowest, 29·646, on the 22nd of January.

The rainfall was 45·80 inches against an average of 48·44. The greatest fall in 24 hours was 11·24 inches—on the 7th of May.

The mean hourly velocity of the wind was 10·2 miles, against an average of 11·8 miles. The greatest velocity for one hour was 31·2 miles—on the 22nd of January.

Thunder, or lightning, or both together, were observed on 50 days, against an average of 31 days during the 10 previous years.

Nineteen storm-warnings were issued during the passage of cyclones at a distance.

15,245 days' observations at sea were tabulated, and the tracks of five cyclones determined and laid down on a chart.

101 synoptic weather-charts of the Indian Ocean were constructed.

The magnetographs were at work throughout the year, and the absolute values of the magnetic elements determined monthly. The largest magnetic disturbances occurred between the 2nd and 5th of July, and between the 1st and 5th of November.

477 photographs of the sun were taken. There was no day in the year on which there were not spots on the sun.

Observations for time were taken daily when the weather permitted, and the time-ball was dropped three times a week.

Reports were written on the phenomena observed in Mauritius, and the Indian Ocean, after the eruptions of Krakatoa in August 1883, with a view to the preparation of a general report on the subject.

XXIII.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty Ordinances were passed in 1884, the most important of which are:—

No. 1.—To provide for the temporary relief of estates in consequence of the stoppage of payments by the Oriental Bank.

No. 2.—To empower the Governor to issue commissions as stipendiary magistrates to district magistrates, and to authorise district and stipendiary clerks to pass contracts of service.

No. 3.—To provide for the examination of, and grant of certificates of competency to persons intending to act as masters, mates, or engineers of British ships.

No. 6.—To allow persons who make requisitions for the introduction of labourers from India to pay in several instalments the sums due to Government for the introduction of such laborers.

No. 8.—To give to the judge presiding at a criminal trial, in cases of offences not punishable by death, the power of allowing the jury to separate when the trial is adjourned.

No. 11.—Enacting that every contract entered into by minors for service out of this Colony should be passed before a stipendiary magistrate.

No. 13.—Providing for the appointment of a police officer for the Island of Diego Garcia, and for other matters concerning that Dependency.

No. 16.—To amend Ordinance No. 33, entitled "An Ordinance "to authorise the raising of a sum not exceeding 140,000*l.* upon "debentures, for the purpose of converting and paying the public "debts contracted on debentures by the mayor and corporation "of Port Louis."

No. 17.—To transfer to the Supreme Court the jurisdiction of the Governor and Executive Council in certain matters.

No. 18.—To reduce the harbour dues, and to amend and consolidate the laws relative thereto.

No. 19.—To amend the laws on licenses.

XXIV.—DEPENDENCIES.

(*a.*) *Seychelles and Rodrigues.*

The Seychelles Blue Book Report, and the Report of the Chief Civil Commissioner of Rodrigues, for 1884, are herewith submitted.

(*b.*) *Minor Dependencies.*

The magistrate for the lesser Dependencies visited the following Dependencies during the year 1884:—

(1) Eagle Island.
(2) Peros Banhos.
(3) Solomon Islands.
(4) Diego Garcia.

H. N. D. BEYTS,
24th November 1885. Acting Colonial Secretary.

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1884.

The receipts for the year 1884 amounted to Rs. 130,047.74, and the expenditure to Rs. 145,774.85.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of imports and exports was:—

	Rs.	c.
Imports - - - -	401,508	56
Specie - - - -	27,097	00
Total	428,605	56

	Rs.	c.
Exports - - - -	370,593	25
Specie - - - -	21,582	00
Total	392,175	25

SHIPPING.

The number of vessels that have entered Port Victoria, including mail steamers, is 74, with an aggregate of 125,751 tons, as follows:—

	Tons.
Men-of-war - - -	7,456
Mail steamers - -	101,543
Merchant vessels - -	16,752
Total	125,751

Of the men-of-war, three are English, three French, and one Italian.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of this Dependency, as shown by the returns of the census, taken in 1881, was 14,081; 7,179 males and 6,902 females.

Mahé Ward.

The birth-rate per 1,000 was 36·32 against 31·00 in 1883. The per-centage of still-births was 1·55 against 8·08 in 1883. There were 233 marriages against 156 in 1883. The death-rate was 18·45 against 26·03 in 1883.

SEYCHELLES.

Praslin Ward.

The birth-rate per 1,000 was 34·50 against (unknown) in 1883.

The still-births per 1,000 was 3·50 against (unknown) in 1883.

The death-rate per 1,000 was 16·00 against (unknown) in 1883.

There were 24 marriages in 1884 against (unknown) in 1883.

EDUCATION.

There were 20 primary schools, attended by 1,620 children, supported by Government grants-in-aid.

Twelve with 1,253 pupils under the Roman Catholic Mission; and eight with 367 pupils under the Church of England.

The number of children attending grant-in-aid schools in 1884 show an increase of 205 over that of 1883.

The amount voted for grants-in-aid in 1884 was the same as that of the preceding year, viz., Rs. 6,000.

There are a few private schools inferior to those supported by Government, and no educational establishments to enable promising scholars to obtain the advantage of higher education.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The total number of criminal cases entered during 1884 was 518 against 401 in 1883, and 493 persons were convicted against 365 in 1883.

GAOLS.

The total number of persons committed to gaol was 319 against 446 in 1883.

There were 20 sentenced for one year, all the others were sentenced for less than one year.

There were two cases of murder committed to the Assizes of Mauritius.

There were 10 prisoners admitted into hospital against 16 in 1883.

ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

I regret to be unable to give the number of adherents of the churches supported by the Government in Seychelles, the population of all the Dependencies having been mixed up together under the head "Religion" in the returns of the census taken in 1881.

The number of ministers in 1884 were as follows:—

Roman Catholic Church.

Bishop	1
Priests in sacred orders	13
Lay Brothers Capuchins	4
Lay Brothers Marists	5
Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny	22
Total	45

Church of England.

Civil Chaplain of Mahé	1
Minister of Praslin Island	1
and six Evangelists and four Catechists	10
Total	12

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

Roman Catholic.

Churches (permanent)	8
Churches (temporary)	5
Chapels	3
Total	16

Church of England.

Churches	3
Chapels (used also as schools)	8
Total	11

The expenses incurred by the Government in 1884 for the Ecclesiastical Establishments were as follows:—

	Rs.	c.
Church of England	3,750	00
Roman Catholic Church	4,999	92
	8,749	92

HOSPITALS.

The number of persons treated in the Civil Hospital was 148, of which 100 were discharged as cured.

21 were discharged as relieved.
10 were discharged as un-relieved.
12 died.
5 remained in hospital at the end of the year.

Total 148

Of these 148 persons 106 were paupers.
10 „ prisoners.
32 „ paying persons.

Total 148 as follows :—

RETURN OF ACTING GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICER

General Diseases.

Anœmia 18, varicella 44 rheumatism 7, syphilis 12, paralysis 4, asthma 1, dysentery 2, sunstroke 1, uterine tumour 1, insanity 3, phthisis 4, bilious attack 1, pneumonia 1, diarrhœa 1, bronchitis 1, delirium tremens 2, hepatitis 1.

Local Diseases.

Burns 1, wounds 9, ulcers 5, hernia 1, fracture 1, blows 2, gonorrhœa 6, stricture 1, sarcocele 2, bubo 3, fistula 4, kick from horse 1, injury to eye 1, chigres 1, abcess 1, fall 1, fatty tumour 1, abdominal tumour 1, crushed finger 1, malingering 1. Total 148.

DISPENSARY.

The number of persons who have applied for medicines, &c. at the Public Dispensary during the past year is 5,894.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Having only recently taken charge of this Dependency I am not in a position to enter much into the details of the money expended and work done by this Department in 1884. I may, however, state that the work done seems altogether inadequate to the expenses incurred, viz., Rs. 14,566.04.

Of the prison buildings, two are in a very dilapidated state, and a third begun several years ago remain unfurnished. The old Court House and the Police Station are also in a very dilapidated state, and the Custom House, Government House, Public Hospital and Port Office and the house at the Quarantine Station require repairs.

All the old bridges are more or less rotten, and only one new bridge has been constructed lately (in 1884).

The few existing roads are, generally speaking, in very bad order, and very little has been done in making new roads.

SURVEY BRANCH.

With the exception of one plot of ground and the line on one side of the "Coco de mer Ravine" at Praslin, no other Crown lands have as yet been surveyed by Mr. Connal.

To afford due protection to Government forests it is necessary that all Crown lands should be surveyed and the boundaries fixed, as otherwise prosecutions before the Court for larcenies of timber, "Cocos de mer," "Cocos de mer" hearts, &c., &c., will prove unsuccessful.

In order to afford greater protection to these forests than heretofore, I have instructed the police to act as Forest Rangers.

AGRICULTURE.

I am happy to say that the cultivation of "cacao" is progressing satisfactorily. I regret to be unable to say as much with regard to vanilla and clove plantations. This is due to the want of regular labour on estates which must be attributed to the widespread and uncontrolled "moitié" system of work (share system) which Africans prefer to regular work.

The expansion of vanilla and clove plantations will depend very much on the adoption of some measures to check vagrancy and to control the "moitié" system of work.

This system encourages idleness and irregular work. Without regular labour it is not possible to cultivate vanilla and cloves successfully. With the former it is necessary, at a given moment, to remove the anthers of the flowers, and to apply them to the stegma, without which operation the plants will not bear, and with the latter the crop must be gathered within a short period, for when the time for gathering has passed the cloves lose 50 per cent. in value.

The number of Africans who are in these islands would be quite sufficient to meet the requirements of all the planters were it not that the climate and soil enabling them to live with very little work, with their indolent habits, they prefer to plant sweet potatoes and manioc, and share the produce with the owner of the land, than to work at regular labour for wages.

The disease on coffee plants (leaf disease) has done great injury to all the coffee plantations of these islands.

The cocoa-nut plantations have also suffered much of late years from the ravages of an insect which attacks the upper part of the trees (the heart) and of a worm which destroys the roots. In some instances, trees in full bearing fall to the ground—the

SEYCHELLES. roots having been completely destroyed by worms—and in others where the heart is eaten up by large insects, the trees wither and die.

No effort seems to have been made, such as weeding plantations, &c. to destroy these insects.

The cultivation of nutmegs has hitherto been neglected. To judge from a few trees planted in the Government House grounds in 1878, and which are now in full bearing, there can be no doubt that the soil is admirable for its growth. I have received 300 seeds from Mauritius, 200 of which I have distributed among the inhabitants, and I have had the remainder planted in the grounds of Government House.

LEGISLATION.

The following regulations were passed by the Board of Civil Commissioners during the past year.

No. 1 of 1884.—Labour regulation (not yet confirmed.)

No. 2 of 1884.—To amend the law on the Post Office.

No. 3 of 1884.—To destroy infected straw huts.

No. 4 of 1884.—To extend the operation of Regulation 3 of 1883 to "Coco de mer" leaves, hearts, &c. (not yet confirmed).

GEO. HOLLIER GRIFFITHS,
Acting Chief Civil Commissioner.

Government House, Seychelles,
26th March 1885.

P.S.—It will be seen that whereas the returns of the Court show—

Persons convicted in District Court	-	-	493
Ditto ditto Stipendiary Court	-	-	82
Total	-	-	575 persons,

the returns of the gaol only shows 319 persons as having been committed to prison.

The difference are persons sentenced to fines, and who have paid the same.

GEO. HOLLIER GRIFFITHS,
Acting Chief Cviil Commissioner.

REPORT ON THE ISLAND OF RODRIGUES FOR THE YEAR 1884.

I.—TAXATION.

By Rodrigues Regulation No. 2 of 1884, were exempted from payment of license duties:

a. Bread and cake seller in a market.
b. Bread and cake seller elsewhere than in a market.
c. Cake maker and seller in a market.
d Cake maker and seller elsewhere than in a market.
e. Hawker of bread and cakes.
f. Hawker and seller of bread and cakes.
g. Hawker of poultry.
h. Vegetable and fruit seller in a market.
j. Vegetable and fruit seller elsewhere than in a market.
k. Hawker of any produce of the soil of the Colony, manufactured or unmanufactured, except spirits, timber, tobacco, firewood, and charcoal.
l. Fishmonger in a market.
m. Hawker or seller of dairy produce.
n. Hawker of fish, shrimps, and shell-fish.
o. Fishermen.
p. Washermen and laundresses.

This is the only alteration made in the taxation of this island during the past year.

The receipts for 1884 amount to Rs. 8,702.74, showing a decrease of Rs. 496.94 in comparison with 1883, but an increase of Rs. 269.47 over 1882.

There is a comparatively great increase in the amount collected for Customs paid in Rodrigues: Rs. 344 over the sum received in 1883. This is to be attributed to the rather large quantity of goods saved from the wrecked French barque *Bretagne* and sold in Rodrigues on which Customs dues had to be paid. There is also an increase in the receipts of this year over those of 1884 under the following heads: Land rent, Pasturage, Registration dues, Stamps, Fees of Court and School fees, and a total decrease of Rs. 1,829.88 under the other headings, the most important of which being Rs. 437.55 under item Miscellaneous and Rs. 854.50 under item Licenses, this latter reduction being traceable, I believe, to the abolition of certain license duties in virtue of the above-quoted Regulation No. 2 of 1884.

The above amount of Rs. 8,702.74 is for sums actually received in Rodrigues; but it must not be forgotten that a much larger sum is received in Mauritius on all goods shipped to this Dependency and which really is the property of Rodrigues. Indeed, referring to Mr. Broome's (then Lieutenant Governor)—Minute on the Estimates of 1883, parag. 31, it will be seen that as much as about Rs. 15,000 a year are collected on articles sent to this island. "These collections," his Excellency writes, "are made at the Port Louis Custom House, and cannot well be

RODRIGUES.

" detached from the Mauritius revenue; but they are really " Rodrigues revenue, and should be allowed for in arranging the " expenditure to which the island is fairly entitled." Again, in Return A (Mauritius Estimates for the year 1883, drawn up by the Honourable the Acting Auditor General, Mr. Cockburn Stewart, it will be seen that the sum of Rs. 2,600,267.13 paid in Mauritius for Customs includes about Rs. 15,000 paid on goods shipped to Rodrigues. The statement of the Auditor General referred to the sum received in 1881 for Custom dues. I do not know as yet what it may have been for last year, but it is not certainly below Rs. 10,000.

III.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

There was a total number of 107 cases before this Court for last year. They are classified as follows:

Before what Court.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons charged or sued.	Number of Persons convicted or against whom judgment was given.	Number of Persons acquitted or with regard to whom cases were nonsuited or dismissed or otherwise.
Police Court, criminal side -	71	88	52	36
Do. civil side -	30	30	19	11
Do. stipendiary side	6	6	6	—
Total - -	107	124	77	47

IV.—EDUCATION.

Table showing the number of pupils attending the Port Mathurin and Gabriel Schools for past two years:—

Port Mathurin School.

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance on Roll.
1883 - - -	75	61	81 per cent.
1884 - - - -	81	63	78 „

Gabriel School.

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance on Roll.
1883 - - - -	84	73	87 per cent.
1884 - - - -	72	58	80 „

On the 20th December last year I examined the Port Mathurin pupils. The subjects of examination were reading, writing, geography, grammar, and arithmetic. I was greatly satisfied with the results obtained.

Having some other business on hand, I was unable to hold the examination of the Gabriel School pupils at the end of last year. This I did on the 12th of March of this year. The results were satisfactory. It is my pleasing duty to state that the way in which these young people answered the questions put to them is very creditable to both schoolmasters.

V.—POST OFFICE

Receipts for past Two Years.

Particulars.	1883.	1884.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1. Unpaid letters - - - -	7 24	2 76
2. Sale of postage labels - -	112 74	90 49
3. Commission on money orders - -	36 41	20 17
Total - -	156 39	113 42

Showing a decrease under each of the above headings.

Money Orders, 1883 *and* 1884.

Where drawn on.	1883.	1884.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Drawn on Mauritius - - -	10,066 51	5,452 34
„ Rodrigues - - -	143 03	950 —

There was a great falling off in the amount of orders drawn on Mauritius last year, the difference being Rs. 4,614.17 below

RODRIGUES.

the amount drawn in 1883, and a large increase of Rs. 806.87 over 1883 in those drawn on Rodrigues.

Letters and Newspapers despatched and received during the past two Years.

Year.	Received.						Despatched.			
	Letters.			Newspapers.			Letters.			Newspapers and Books.
	Inland.	Foreign.	Total.	Inland.	Foreign.	Total.	Inland.	Foreign.	Total.	
1883 -	1,083	113	1,196	630	67	697	1,267	60	1,327	2
1884 -	849	52	901	662	54	716	925	37	962	3

VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The residence which was being built for the chief police officer at Port Mathurin, towards the end of 1883 was completed at the beginning of last year and handed over to him. Sundry repairs to Government properties were executed. The repairing and painting of Government boats was performed by the police.

The amount expended on works and buildings and repairs (including sanitary) was Rs. 1146.24 as against Rs. 2,754.55 in 1883, or a decrease of Rs. 1,608.31.

VII.—POPULATION.

The population of this island on the 31st December 1883 was 1,581 souls, and 1,636 on 31st December 1884, showing an increase of 55 souls.

Population on 31st December 1883 - -			1,581
Total births in 1884 - - -	91		
Arrivals - - - -	43		
	—	134	
Less deaths - - -	29		
Departures - - -	50		
	—	79	
Increase in 1884 - - -			55
Population on 31st December 1884 - -			1,636

There were 19 marriages in 1884 against 9 in 1883.
Still births 1 in 1884 against 2 in 1883.

Total of Births, Deaths, &c. during past two Years

Year.	Births.			Deaths.			Arrivals.			Departures.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1883 - -	31	33	64	18	10	28	32	14	46	32	15	47
1884 - -	46	45	91	14	15	29	38	5	43	58	12	50

Classification of Population 1883 *and* 1884.

Year.	General Population.			Indian Population.			Total.		Grand Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
1883 -	864	692	1,556	22	3	25	886	695	1,581
1884 -	898	715	1,613	20	3	23	918	718	1,636

Classification of Nationalities.

	1883.	1884.
Natives of America - - - -	1	1
„ Mauritius - - - -	192	206
„ Africa - - - -	8	8
„ India - - - -	25	25
„ Europe - - - -	26	20
„ Madagascar - - -	44	45
„ Rodrigues - - -	1,276	1,337
„ Seychelles - - -	6	6
„ Réunion - - - -	2	2
„ Siam - - - -	1	1
Total - - -	1,581	1,636

Calling.

Employed in agriculture - - -	870
„ in commerce - - -	5
„ as artizans - - -	13
„ as Government servants - -	18
„ in fisheries - - -	150
Other callings - - - -	130
Unemployed - - - -	450

The latter comprising women, children, and persons of which last six are paupers.

VIII.—LEGISLATION.

The following regulations were framed by his Excellency the Governor in Executive Council especially for the Island of Rodrigues.

Regulation No. 1 of 1884.—To provide for the maintenance of order and regularity amongst shipping at Rodrigues.

Regulation No. 2 of 1884.—To exempt persons carrying on certain trades or callings in the Island of Rodrigues from taking out licenses.

IX.—PRISONS.

Number of prisoners committed during 1883 and 1884 :—

	1883.	1884.
For nonpayment of fine and costs - -	9	9
„ safe custody until trial - - -	12	34
„ various terms of imprisonment - -	19	12
„ debt under Ordinance 16 of 1869 -	1	Nil.
Total - - -	41	55

The police did duty as prison guards. No escape or other offences took place last year.

The premises used as prisons are insufficient. In a sanitary point of view they are certainly worthless. The ventilation is altogether insufficient. During the summer nights the people locked therein must suffer a kind of torture which it was evidently not intended to inflict upon them. Besides, there is no female ward. Last year a woman was prosecuted here for an attempt at murder and committed to the assizes. Pending the decision of the Parquet on the question of knowing whether she would

be sent to Mauritius to stand her trial or not, the woman was left at large, there being no female ward. It so happened that the Procureur General finding there was not sufficient evidence to support such a serious charge referred back the matter to my predecessor with authority to try the case on the minor charge of wounds and blows. The woman was sentenced to one month's imprisonment. Mr. O'Halloran, for the sake of morality and decency, decided not to have the sentence of imprisonment carried into effect before receiving instructions on the point. His Excellency on the recommendation of the magistrate was pleased to remit the sentence of imprisonment. (*Vide* Colonial Secretary's letter A 1840, dated 29th October 1884.) Had it not been the case, I do not see how she would have undergone her sentence unless she had been ordered to spend her time of imprisonment in one of the Mauritius gaols. Other cases may occur in consequence of which it would be indispensable to imprison a woman here. In the present state of things it would be very awkward indeed. I therefore consider it necessary to have another prison built here.

X.—ESTABLISHMENT.

Cost of Establishment for past two Years.

Year.	Salaries.	Allowances.	Total.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1883 - - -	16,575 70	1,838 83	18,414 53
1884 - - -	16,969 43	1,594 45	18,563 88

The above table shows an increase of Rs. 149.35 in the cost of establishment for the last year over 1883.

XI.—TRADE.

Estimated value of Imports and Exports for the past two Years.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c,
1883 - - -	55,372 95	94,385 00
1884 - - - -	58,902 50	93,734 00

There is an increase of Rs. 3,529.55 in the value of the imports of last year over 1883. On the other hand there is a decrease of Rs. 651 in the exports of last year as against 1883.

RODRIGUES.

XII.—GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.

Table showing number of Patients treated during 1883 *and* 1884.

Year.	In Patients.			Out-Patients of both sexes.	Grand Total.	Prevailing Diseases among Patients.
	Male.	Female.	Total.			
1883 -	13	8	*21	857	878	Scurvy, venereal, retention of urine, diarrhœa, hernia, indigestion, gripe, dysentery, fever (rheumatic) fever (intermittent), wound, intestinal obstruction.
1884 -	15	2	*17	721	738	Pregnancy, hæmaturia.

* For various periods.

Receipts and Expenditure of Hospital for 1883 *and* 1884.

Year.	Receipts on account of In-Patients.	Total of Expenditure on account of Hospital.	Cost of Hospital and Dispensary, exclusive of Medicines.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1883 - - -	224 32	3,794 98	3,570 66
1884 - - -	54 —	3,332 73	3,278 73

The decrease in total amount of expenditure of hospital for 1884 compared with 1883 was Rs. 462.85 and decrease in the receipts Rs. 170.32 for the same period.

Total cost to Government of each patient both in hospital and at dispensary for past two years.

	Rs.	c.
1883 - - - - -	4	06
1884 - - - - -	4	44

In 1884 there were two deaths in the Government Hospital against one in the previous year.

XIII.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Nothing extraordinary to be noted in that branch for last year. No hurricane visited the island. Mr. James Wallis, the Meteorological Observer, transmitted to Dr. Meldrum the observations made by him.

XIV.—GOVERNMENT MODEL FARM.

The Government Model Farm, Rodrigues, was closed at the end of last year by order of his Excellency the Governor.

XV.—GOVERNMENT SCHOONER "HARMONIE."

The schooner *Harmonie* made three trips to Rodrigues last year—being mainly engaged in carrying to Mauritius the teak timber bought by Government. It would be a great boon to this island if her visits were more frequent. She could easily make six trips per year.

SUNDRY REMARKS.

Several things are, in my view, required to make this small place thrive. I may mention first good roads. There are none here worthy of the name. If Government would only make the necessary outlay, matters would immediately assume another aspect. Government would be sure soon to recoup itself of that expense. Horses, mules, asses would be imported on which Customs dues would be levied. Taxes would have to be paid for the keeping of them. There would be of necessity, vehicles on which the road tax would have to be claimed. The inhabitants would benefit by the change in more than one way. They would take the produce of their land, their cattle, goat, &c. down to the town much more easily than they can do at the present moment. Now a days when a man buys a bag of rice at Port Mathurin he has to carry it home on his shoulders over the mountains. No trifling affair! Besides, the town and the other parts of the island would be in more constant and frequent communication—"of all inventions," says Lord Macaulay, "the alphabet and the "printing press alone excepted, those inventions which abridge "distance have done most for the civilisation of our species."

The harbour also requires certain improvements. Of course I do not ask for the opening of the port of Rodrigues. On that question I agree with my predecessor when reporting on the Honourable the Colonial Secretary's Minute paper No. 3754 of 1881, that it would be burdening the island with too heavy an expenditure. But something more modest can, and I may venture to add must, be done in view of the safety of the ships which visit this island. I would accordingly suggest the expediency of placing three anchors of about 1,500 pounds weight each, and 100 fathoms of small sized chains into the inner harbour—and in the outer harbour, one five ton mushroom anchor with 30 fathoms of 2-inch chains attached to a buoy in the spot marked ⊥ in the Rodrigues Chart, together with an anchor of 1,500 pounds weight with 30 fathoms of chains for the N.E. entrance of the outer harbour.

RODRIGUES.

The expenses incurred by Government would be repaid by charging a certain amount, say, Rs. 25, as port dues on all ships visiting this island, whatever be their tonnage.

A. BOUCHERAT,
Acting Civil Commissioner
and Police Magistrate.

Civil Commissioner's Office,
15th June 1885.

HONG KONG.

HONG KONG.

No. 2.

Administrator W. H. MARSH, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Government House, Hong Kong,
April 16, 1886.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book, for 1885, together with a report prepared by Mr. Seth, chief clerk, Colonial Secretary's Office, exhibiting the principal features as compared with the four preceding years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. MARSH.

The Right Hon.
The Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for 1885, presented to the Legislative Council by Command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government on 21st April, 1886.

I.—TAXATION.

The following changes were made in 1885 in the taxes of the Colony:—

Trust Estates.

(*a.*) By Ordinance 5 of 1885, the Official Trustee is empowered to levy a fee of one per cent. on the annual revenue of a trust estate.

Piers and Wharves.

(*b.*) By an Order of the Governor in Council conveyed in Colonial Secretary's Office Document No. 1,460 of 1885, a fee of $15 is levied for every permit to erect a pier or wharf other than a pier or wharf authorised by Ordinance.

Vehicles and Chairs.

(*c.*) By an Order of the Governor in Council of the 14th August 1885, made under Ordinance 5 of 1883, a new scale of fees for vehicle licences was fixed as follows :—

	$
For every wheeled vehicle, half yearly -	- 3.00
For every chair, half yearly - - -	- 1.00
For every driver or bearer of a vehicle or chair	- 0.20

Masters and Engineers of Steam Launches.

(*d.*) By an Order of the Governor in Council of the 14th August 1885, made under section 7 of Ordinance 8 of 1879, sections 7 and 8 of Table F. are amended, and the fee for every examination of a master or engineer of a steam launch is fixed at $2.50.

Trade Marks.

(*e.*) By an Order of the Governor in Council of the 28th August 1885 made under Ordinance 16 of 1873, the following new scale of fees for the registration of trade marks is fixed :—

	$	c.
On application for registration of one trade mark, including filing of one affidavit -	25	00
Where a single application relates to more than one trade mark, for every trade mark after the first - - -	0	50
When more than one affidavit or document is filed, for each after the first -	0	25
For inspection of register - - -	0	50
For office copies, per folio - -	0	25
Attorney General, on each application for investigating and reporting on the title of the applicant - - -	25	00

Gunpowder Storage.

(*f.*) By an Order of the Governor in Council of the 21st August 1885 made under Ordinance 8 of 1879 the charges for the storage of gunpowder are fixed as follows :—

	A month and fraction of a month.
Packages containing 25lbs. and less of loose gunpowder - - -	6 cents.
Packages containing 25lbs. and less of gunpowder in tins - - -	8 „
Packages containing more than 25lbs. and less than 50lbs. of loose gunpowder -	10 „
Packages containing more than 25lbs. and less than 50lbs. of gunpowder in tins -	12 „

	A month and fraction of a month.
Packages containing 50lbs. and less than 75lbs. of loose gunpowder - -	14 cents
Packages containing 50lbs. and less than 75lbs. of gunpowder in tins - -	„
Packages containing 75lbs. and less than 100lbs. of loose gunpowder - -	18 „
Packages containing 75lbs. and less than 100lbs. of gunpowder in tins - -	20 „

and so on, increasing 4 cents per package for each 25lbs. of gunpowder, up to and in excess of 100lbs., according as the gunpowder may be loose or in tins.

Packages containing ball-cartridges to be charged per 25lbs. weight, 3 cents a month, and fraction of a month.

The weight of the various packages to be determined at the time of storing, and no alteration to be allowed after they have been received into the magazine.

Dangerous Goods Storage.

(*g.*) By Government notification No. 332 of the 22nd August 1885 the charges for the storage of dangerous goods are fixed as follows:—

Nitro glycerine, or glonoine oil, gun cotton, fulminating mercury, dynamite, lithofracteur, Horsley's Patent Blasting Powder, &c.

	A month and fraction of a month.
Cases of above containing 25lbs. and less	12 cents.
Cases containing more than 25lbs. and less than 50lbs. - - -	20 „
Cases containing 50lbs. and less than 75lbs. - - - - -	28 „
Cases containing 75lbs. and less than 100 lbs. - - - -	36 „

and so on, increasing 8 cents per package for each 25lbs. weight.

The weight of the various packages to be determined at the time of storing, and no alteration to be allowed after they have been received into the magazine.

The Government not to be responsible for damage by explosion or by insufficient or improper packing.

Municipal Rates.

By Government notification No. 253 of the 20th June 1885, the municipal rates for the year ending 30th June 1886 were fixed as follows:—

(I.) In the city of Victoria,—

Police rate - - - -	8¾	per cent.
Lighting rate - - - -	1½	„
Fire brigade rate - - - -	¾	„
Water rate - - - - -	2	„
Municipal rates - - - -	13	„

(II.) At the Victoria Peak:—

Municipal rate - - - -	8¾	per cent.

(III.) In British Kaulung and other outlying districts of the Colony:—

Municipal rates - - - -	6	per cent.

Fees.

There were no changes in the personal fees received by the several officers in the several departments.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue, omitting premia from land sales, amounted to $1,251,889 70; and the expenditure, including extraordinary works, amounted to $1,621,250 39. Premia from land sales realised in 1885, the sum of $66,658 50.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years have been:—

Year.	Revenue.	Premia from Land.	Ordinary Expenditure.	Extraordinary Expenditure.
	$	$	$	$
1881 - -	1,120,796 77	203,659 20	981,582 10	—
1882 - -	1,209,517 08	18,330 77	1,094,804 92	—
1883 - -	1,289,448 29	25,718 65	1,162,247 14	180,052 10
1884 - -	1,173,071 48	19,695 00	1,254,634 77	340,763 62
1885 - -	1,251,889 70	66,658 50	1,146,103 15	475,147 24

3.—LOCAL REVENUES.

The Chinese inhabitants contributed in 1885, by voluntary assessment among themselves, to the pay of the district watchman $2,778 57, and received from the Government a grant in aid of $2,000 00.

4.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st December, 1885, the assets of the Colony exceeded its liabilities by $427,692 42.

The surplus assets of the preceding four years have been as follows:—

	$	c.
1881 - - - -	663,710	24
1882 - - - -	1,148,664	39
1883 - - - -	1,067,200	52
1884 - - - -	72,562	02

5.—PUBLIC DEBT.

There was no public debt in 1885.

6.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The military expenditure defrayed by the Colony during the last five years has been as follows:—

	$	c.
1881 - - - -	108,605	17
1882 - - - -	109,372	52
1883 - - - -	111,962	09
1884 - - - -	114,498	78
1885 - - - -	111,337	00

7.—GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

Hospital Superintendent's House.

(*a.*) The new house for the Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital was completed in 1885, and the Superintendent entered into occupation from October.

Lunatic Asylum.

(*b.*) The new Lunatic Asylum was completed and ready for occupation in January.

New Market.

(*c.*) Houses Nos. 38, 39, 41, 42, and 43 Praya Central were resumed by the Government for building the new Central Market, and let in the meanwhile for $1,026.61 per annum from the 10th August. The lengths of the tenancies are variable.

Time Ball.

(*d.*) A house for keeping the electric apparatus for dropping the time ball was ready for occupation in January, and the time ball was in working order from that month.

Tide-Gauge.

(*e.*) A house for keeping the automatic tide-gauge was erected and ready for use in July 1885.

Government House.

(*f.*) Government House was maintained in repair, and the sanitary arrangements were satisfactory.

8.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Several public works were completed during the year, among which may be mentioned :—

(*a.*) The Police Boat Basin at Kowloon.
(*b.*) Extension of the Civil Hospital.
(*c.*) A Police Station at Hunghom.
(*d.*) Renewal and extension of Murray Pier.

9.—LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed during the year :—

No. 1 of 1885.—Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 2 of 1885.—The Stamp Ordinance, 1884.
No. 3 of 1885.—The Bankers' Books Evidence Ordinance, 1885.
No. 4 of 1885.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 8 of 1882.
No. 5 of 1885.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 7 of 1873.
No. 6 of 1885.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 14 of 1870.
No. 7 of 1885.—The Unclaimed Balances Ordinance, 1885.
No. 8 of 1885.—The Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1885.
No. 9 of 1885.—The Bills of Exchange Ordinance.

Hong Kong.

No. 10 of 1885.—The Incorporation of the Vicar Apostolic of the Roman Catholic Church in Hong Kong.
No. 11 of 1885.—The Post Office Ordinance, 1884, Amendment Ordinance, 1885.
No. 12 of 1885.—The Married Women's Disposition of Property Ordinance, 1885.
No. 13 of 1885.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 16 of 1873.
No. 14 of 1885.—The French Mail Steamers Ordinance, Continuation Ordinance, 1885.
No. 15 of 1885.—The preservation of Wild Birds and Game Ordinance.
No. 16 of 1885.—Revenue.
No. 17 of 1885.—Revenue.
No. 18 of 1885.—The Prison Ordinance, 1885.
No. 19 of 1885.—The Cattle Disease Ordinance, 1885.
No. 20 of 1885.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 8 of 1860.
No. 21 of 1885.—The Municipal Rates Ordinance, 1885.

10.—Councils and Assemblies.

Executive Council.—Major-General Sargent having departed in April, his successor, Major-General W. G. Cameron, C.B., succeeded to his seat in the Executive Council.

Legislative Council.—There was no change among the members of the Legislative Council during the year.

Sanitary Board.—Dr. Stewart, the Registrar General, having acted as Colonial Secretary the greater part of the year, his place on the Board was filled by Mr. Lockhart, the Acting Registrar General.

Board of Examiners.—There was no change in the constitution of the Board during the year.

Medical Board.—There was no change in the constitution of this Board during the year.

11.—Civil Establishments.

Governor Sir George Bowen having left the Colony on the 19th December, on leave of absence, the Hon. W. H. Marsh, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, who had recently returned from leave, assumed the Administration of the Government; in consequence of which the following officers who had been appointed during Mr. Marsh's absence continued in their respective acting appointments:—

The Hon. Frederick Stewart, LL.D., Registrar General as Acting Colonial Secretary.
J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Esq., Assistant Colonial Secretary, as Acting Registrar General.

Several changes occurred in various departments consequent upon officers going on leave of absence.

12.—Officers who have given Security for the Discharge of their Duties.

The validity of the sureties of the various officers was duly inquired into at the end of every quarter, and found to be satisfactory.

13.—Pensions.

The following Officers retired on pension during the year:—
W. McClellan, inspector of junks and cargo boats.
A. Leira, clerk, post office.
Leung Tsan chi, Chinese master, Wàntsai School.
James Badger, 1st class turnkey, Victoria Gaol.
Doodah (alias J. Dott) 1st class turnkey, Victoria Gaol.
Jose Rozario, 1st class assistant turnkey, Victoria Gaol.
Jh'an Sz, head turncock.
Joaquim da Silva, 1st class asssistant turnkey, Victoria Gaol.
William Farrington Rivers, inspector of police, and
18 Indian police constables.

14.—Expenditure of the Establishments.

The amounts paid during the year on account of the Establishments were:—

Payments in Great Britain in sterling money, 21,733*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*
Payments in the Colony in local currency, $662,7C2 09.

15.—Foreign Consuls.

No new Consulates were established in the Colony during 1885.

16.—Population.

The estimated population on the 31st December, 1885, was as follows:—

Males - - - - -	137,079
Females - - - - -	53,515

which is 9,065 more than the estimated population at the end of 1884.

HONG KONG.

The estimated population for the last five years was as follows:—

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1881 - - -	115,369	45,033	160,402*
1882 - - -	119,704	46,729	166,433
1883 - - -	124,768	48,707	173,475
1884 - - -	130,560	50,969	181,529
1885 - - -	137,079	53,515	190,594

* According to the Census of 1881.

The births and deaths for the last five years were as follows:—

Years.	Births.	Deaths.
1881 - - - -	1,518	3,862
1882 - - - -	1,545	4,189
1883 - - - -	1,509	4,712
1884 - - - -	1,551	4,311
1885 - - - -	1,555	5,192

The birth rate in the total estimated population as above was 8·16 per thousand, and the death rate 27·24 per thousand.

The increase in the death rate was owing to some cases of choleraic diarrhœa brought on, it was believed, by eating unripe fruit, and to some cases of cholera.

The Government took prompt steps, which prevented the disease from becoming epidemic.

17.—ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

There were no changes in these establishments, as compared with previous years.

18.—EDUCATION.

The total number of schools subject to supervision by the Government amounted in 1885 to 90, being the same number as in 1884.

The total number of scholars subject to Government supervision during the last five years was as follows.—

Years.	Government Schools.	Grant-in-aid (Schools).	Total.
1881 - - -	1,986	2,386	4,372
1882 - -	2,114	3,068	5,182
1883 - - -	1,567	4,107	5,674
1884 - - -	1,533	4,352	5,885
1885 - - -	1,792	4,041	5,833

The total expenditure for the last five years was as follows:—

	$	c.
1881 - - - -	29,592	32
1882 - - - -	33,743	29
1883 - - - -	35,412	26
1884 - - - -	36,758	14
1885 - - - -	36,085	27

19.—EXCHANGES, MONEYS, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Exchange.

The rate of exchange on four months' bills on London fell from 3*s.* 7⅛*d.* per dollar in January to 3*s.* 4½*d.* in December.

Currency.

The law affecting currency has remained unchanged.

Bank Notes.

The bank notes in circulation in Hong Kong during the last five years, as furnished by the managers of the respective banks, were as follows.—

Years.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
	$	$
1881 - - - -	3,555,009	1,341,667
1882 - - - -	4,253,367	1,536,666
1883 - - - -	5,099,661	1,779,166
1884 - - - -	4,214,787	1,810,833
1885 - - - -	4,080,071	2,000,833

Money Circulation.

The approximate amount of coin put into circulation up to 31st December 1885, was as follows:—

Hong Kong dollars and half dollars struck at the Hong Kong mint - - -	1,421,487
Hong Kong silver and copper subsidiary coins (20, 10, and 5 cent pieces; and 1 cent and mil pieces) - - -	1,507,381

The importation of copper coin has been discontinued.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in use in the Colony are regulated by Ordinance 8 of 1885.

20.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

There being no Custom House, it is not possible to furnish an account of the imports and exports.

21.—SHIPPING.

Arrivals exclusive of Junks.

The total arrivals, exclusive of junks, during the year 1885, amounted to 3,428 vessels and 3,866,709 tons, being an excess of 138 vessels and 387,072 tons over the arrivals in 1884.

Junks.

23,674 junks measuring 1,797,222 tons arrived in the Colony in 1885, as against 23,473 junks and 1,687,594 tons in 1884, showing an increase of 201 junks and 109,628 tons.

Arrivals exclusive of Junks.

The total arrivals exclusive of junks, for the last five years were:—

Years.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.
1881 - - - -	3,214	2,853,279
1882 - - - -	3,437	3,170,843
1883 - - - -	3,399	3,450,428
1884 - - - -	3,290	3,479,637
1885 - - - -	3,428	3,866,709

Junks arrived.

The total arrivals of junks for the last five years were :—

Years.	Number of Junks.	Tons.
1881 - - - -	24,339	1,680,025
1882 - - - -	25,231	1,805,390
1883 - - - -	24,258	1,851,239
1884 - - - -	23,473	1,687,594
1885 - - - -	23,674	1,797,222

Immigration and Emigration.

The following will show the number of Chinese who arrived in and the number who departed from the Colony during the last five years: –

Years.	Arrived.	Departed.
1881 - - - -	52,983	70,625
1882 - - - -	61,905	78,864
1883 - - - -	74,722	57,438
1884 - - - -	73,767	51,247
1885 - - - -	80,773	57,517

22.—Agricultural.

The lands of the Colony being limited and not favourable for agricultural purposes, there is no inducement for this industry here. The produce is quite nominal.

23.—Manufactures, &c.

Manufactories.

The manufactories have been increased by rope works and glass works.

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Steam-Launches.

The total number of steam launches built in the Colony in 1885 was 87 with a total tonnage of 4,106 as against 18 with a total of 1,610 in 1884.

24.—GRANTS OF LANDS

The sales of land on lease during the last five years were:—

Years.	Total No. of Sales.	Total No. of Acres sold.
		A. R. P.
1881 - - - -	40	47 2 3½
1882 - - - -	34	41 3 5½
1883 - - - -	30	60 1 26¼
1884 - - - -	76	25 3 8¼
1885 - - - -	145	28 0 14¾

25.—GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

On the 1st January 1885 there were 575 prisoners in Victoria Gaol; 3,610 were admitted during the year and 3,612 discharged the total number of prisoners on the 31st of December was 573, of whom 30 were Europeans.

The daily average of prisoners was 530, as against 552 in the previous year.

The number of prisoners admitted into gaol during the last five years was as follows:—

Years.	No. of Prisoners.			Total.	Daily Average Number in Prison.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.		
1881 - -	3,862	159	129	4,150	655·28
1882 - -	3,264	103	131	3,498	622·00
1883 - -	3,200	137	149	3,486	542·50
1884 - -	3,670	168	185	4,023	552·00
1885 - -	3,327	147	136	3,610	530·00

26.—Criminal Statistics.

Supreme Court.

The following is a return of cases tried at the Supreme Court during the last five years:—

Years.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Charges abandoned.		Postponed.	
					Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	No. of Cases.	No. of Cases.
1881 - -	105	154	111	39	1	4	—	—
1882 - -	124	187	124	38	15	21	1	3
1883 - -	91	126	70	26	14	28*	2	2
1884 - -	68	101	65	20	8	16	—	—
1885 - -	91	147	103	22	16	22	—	—
Total -	479	715	473	145	54	91	3	5
Average of 5 years -	95·4/5	143·0	94·3/5	29·0	10·4/5	18·1/5	3/5	1
Average of 5 years ending 1880 -	117·2/5	173·1/5	125·4/5	39·1/5	7·3/5	8·1/5	—	—

* One committed suicide.

Police Magistrates Court.

The cases before the police magistrates during the last five years were as follows:—

Years.	Total No. of Cases.	Total No. of Prisoners.	Cases how disposed of,						
			Convicted and Punished.	Discharged.	Committed for Trial.	Committed pending Orders.	Ordered to find Security.	Punished for False Testimony.	Undecided.
1881 - -	8,203	10,009	7,382	1,851	240	4	434	40	58
1882 - -	7,567	9,402	6,443	2,177	276	39	363	17	87
1883 - -	10,653	12,104	8,797	2,747	129	38	216	6	171
1884 - -	14,065	15,935	12,836	2,562	103	38	281	8	107
1885 - -	10,281	11,901	8,800	2,446	161	14	456	6	18
Total -	50,769	59,351	44,258	11,783	909	133	1,750	77	441
Average of 5 years	10,153·8	11,870·2	8,851·6	2,356·6	181·8	26·6	350	15·4	88·2
Average of 5 years ending 1880 -	8,318·6	9,811·4	7,192·6	2,160·4	185·2	13·3	208	27·0	24·8

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Marine Magistrate's Court.

The cases before the Marine Magistrate's Court during the last five years, were as follows:—

Years.	Number of Cases.	Number of Defendants.	Defendants how disposed of.							
			Imprisoned.	Fined.	Forfeiture of Pay.	Reprimanded.	Sent back to duty.	To be discharged from Ship.	Dismissed.	Committed for trial.
1881 - - -	86	144	68	37	2	2	15	4	16	—
1882 - - -	76	189	56	28	9	7	39	1	47	2
1883 - - -	37	58	13	11	5	1	15	1	12	—
1884 - - -	78	169	85	32	11	1	9	3	28	—
1885 - - -	111	221	136	47	14	2	1	—	21	—
Total -	388	781	358	155	41	13	79	9	124	2
Average of last 5 years - -	77·6	156·2	71·6	31·0	8·2	2·6	15·8	1·8	24·8	—
Average of last 5 years ending 1880 -	167·0	278·8	114·6	64·4	41·2	9·8	14·0	3·0	31·8	—

Police.

The cases brought under notice of the police during the last five years, were as follows:—

Years.	Serious Offences.			Minor Offences.		
	Number of Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Number of Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.
1881 - - -	2,329	1,390	406	4,367	4,459	702
1882 - - -	2,596	1,405	561	3,728	3,602	846
1883 - - -	2,423	1,178	485	5,265	4,014	1,024
1884 - - -	2,652	1,297	560	7,551	4,743	1,102
1885 - - -	2,466	1,298	561	4,309	3,707	757
Total -	12,466	6,568	2,573	25,220	20,525	4,431
Average of 5 years -	2,493·2	1,313·6	514·6	5,044·0	4,105·0	886·2
Average of 5 years ending 1880 -	2,102·0	1,262·6	424·4	4,560·6	3,807·6	768·4

27.—HOSPITALS, &c.

Civil Hospital.

The admissions to the Government Civil Hospital during the year were as follows as compared with 1884:—

	1884.	1885.
Police - - - -	486	495
Board of Trade - - -	60	100
Private paying patients - -	259	283
Government servants - -	96	124
Police cases - - -	231	238
Destitutes - - - -	222	270
	1,354	1,510

The total admissions to the hospital and deaths during the last five years were as follows:—

Years.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1881 - - - -	1,236	49
1882 - - - -	1,414	68
1883 - - - -	1,436	70
1884 - - - -	1,308	50
1885 - - - -	1,510	76

The admissions from the police force and the number of deaths for the past five years were as follows:—

Years.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1881 - - - -	498	10
1882 - - - -	549	8
1883 - - - -	599	10
1884 - - - -	486	7
1885 - - - -	495	9*

* Only 5 of these died in hospital, 1 died at his own residence, and 3 died whilst on leave.

HONG KONG.

The admissions of Europeans in 1884 were 87, as compared with 124 in 1885; the Chinese were 175 in 1884, as compared with 163 in 1885; and the Indians were 224 in 1884 as compared with 208 in 1885.

Military Hospital.

The admissions from among the troops during the past five years were as follows:—

Years.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1881 - - - -	1,116	4
1882 - - - -	1,019	9
1883 - - - -	1,105	10
1884 - - - -	1,097	12
1885 - - - -	1,090	24*

* 12 died of cholera.

Small Pox Hospital.

The admissions during the past five years were as follows:—

Years.	Admissions.
1881 - - - -	7
1882 - - - -	Nil
1883 - - - -	12
1884 - - - -	7
1885 - - - -	14

Inquests.

The inquests held during past five years were as follows:—

Years.	Admissions.
1881 - - - -	111
1882 - - - -	113
1883 - - - -	101
1884 - - - -	82
1885 - - - -	100

28.—CHARITABLE AND LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.

No fresh institution of this nature was formed during the past year.

29.—RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

No fresh institution was formed.

An Ordinance (10 of 1885) was passed during the year for the Incorporation of the Vicar Apostolic of the Roman Catholic Church in Hong Kong, and properties belonging to the Sacred Congregation De Propaganda Fide were transferred to and vested in the said Corporation.

ARATHOON SETH,
Chief Clerk.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hong Kong, 21st April 1886.

CEYLON.

No. 3.

Governor the Hon. SIR A. H. GORDON, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Anuradhapura, Ceylon,
August 10, 1886.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of the Blue Book of the Colony for 1885, together with the usual Report thereon by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

The Right Hon.
Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF CEYLON FOR 1885.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue for 1885 amounted to Rs. 12,650,863 and the expenditure to Rs. 12,611,207, there being an excess of revenue over expenditure of Rs. 39,656.

The revenue showed an increase on that of 1884 of Rs. 248,497. This result is not unsatisfactory, because the revenue of 1884 exceeded that of 1883 by Rs. 5,787 91, and because the only receipt of a casual and exceptional nature in 1885 was the rebate of Rs. 146,833 on account of deficiency of troops under the authorised strength against which may be set Rs. 33,658 received in 1884 from Pearl Fisheries, a source of revenue which yielded only Rs. 440 in 1885.

The expenditure was Rs. 293,229 in excess of that for 1884.

Rs. 31,823 unexpended balances of 1884 were carried forward for expenditure in 1885, of which Rs. 19,125 were again carried forward for expenditure during 1886, together with Rs. 217,722, unexpended balances of 1885.

Revenue.

2. The decrease under the head "Arrears of Revenue" is due to smaller outstandings in consequence of a more punctual collection during the preceding year, and is therefore satisfactory. The recoveries under "Customs" show a net increase of Rs. 56,773 38 due chiefly to the increased rates of duty levied under Ordinance 39 of No. 1884 and to a larger importation of grain. The export duty on plumbago, too, which fell off in 1884, gave a slightly better return than during that year. Though the number of vessels which visited the Colombo harbour was less than in the previous year their tonnage was larger and in consequence a net increase of Rs. 28,891 was yielded by "Port and Harbour Dues."

There was a considerable falling off in the receipts on account of "Land sales," owing not to any slackening in the demand for Crown land, but to a smaller extent having been surveyed and offered for sale than in 1884.

The large increase in the revenue from "Grain taxes," "Land revenue," may be ascribed to extended cultivation, the result of the increased attention which has been given lately to the repair and improvement of irrigation works, to good crops, and partly to the more regular recovery of the tax under the commutation system.

The decrease under "Rents, exclusive of Land" is due simply to smaller returns from the toll rents in consequence of a falling off in traffic on the main roads in the coffee districts.

The receipts on account of arrack, rum and toddy licenses ere Rs. 38,248 less than those for 1884, which again were Rs. 58,988 less than those for 1883. An increase under this head of revenue has however taken place during the present year, and the diminution shown above is due partly to the lowered prosperity among the classes who consume such spirits, partly to succesful combination, and partly to temporary and accidental causes, but not due to an increasing evasion of the excise duties through illicit distillation and sale.

"Stamps." — In 1884 the revenue from the sale of stamps was entered partly under this head and partly under the head "Postal," the gross amount being Rs. 936,793. The receipts during 1885 amounted to Rs. 1,040,851, or Rs. 104,068 in excess of those during 1884, the excess being due entirely to the increased duties leviable under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 43 of 1884.

"Postal." — The decrease is apparent and is explained by the altered system of accounting mentioned above.

The increase in "Fines" arose from a greater number of convictions in the lower courts, owing probably to the operation of the penal and criminal procedure codes.

"Sale of Government Property."—Large sales of ebony in the North Central Province formed the principal item of increase under this head.

"Reimbursements."—A larger exportation of produce on which duty is leviable under the provisions of the Medical Aid Ordinances

caused larger receipts on account of the Medical Aid Fund. The working of the Ordinances, however, still entails a heavy charge on the general revenue.

Under the head "Irrigation works," the heavy collections made in 1884 left a smaller amount recoverable in the following year, hence the decrease.

The increase under "Cost of police received from municipalities" arose from the recovery of outstandings.

The increase shown under the sub-heads "Arrears of Revenue," "Interest," was caused by the recovery through the Law Courts of outstandings on account of arrack rents of previous years.

"Railway Receipts" exhibit an increase of Rs. 74,762, owing chiefly to the extension of the main line to Nanu-oya.

Expenditure.

3. There was on the whole a decrease in the expenditure on establishments of Rs. 9,955. The principal item of increase was Rs. 33,463 in the Railway Department, necessitated by the additional staff required to work the extension of the line to Nanu-oya. In the Department of Public Instruction, on the other hand, owing to the abolition of the normal school and of English teaching schools in town, expenditure was diminished by Rs. 39,499 and that under the head "Education" for the same reason by Rs. 26,018, giving a total saving for the year of Rs. 65,517 by these acts of retrenchment. The expansion of the Pension List and the low price of silver which prevailed throughout the year caused an increase of Rs. 39,700 under "Pensions and retired Allowances." The decrease in "Revenue Services" was due to a smaller manufacture of salt and that on account of "Administration of Justice" to more careful attention to the expenses connected with the Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court. The prevalence of fever and small-pox in different parts of the Island and the opening of the new lunatic asylum necessitated additional expenditure, hence the increase of Rs. 40,602 shown under the head "Hospitals and Sanitation." There was higher expenditure, too, on account of "Prison Services" owing to a large increase in the number of prisoners. A payment to the Government of India of the first instalment on account of the telegraph cable increased expenditure under "Conveyance of Mails, &c." Larger expenditure was rendered necessary on account of "Works and Buildings" owing to the destruction wrought by cyclones; on "Miscellaneous Services" by the depreciation in silver and the cost of currency notes and on "Interest" also by the lowered value of silver. The reduction in the annual contribution towards the cost of the troops stationed in this and other Colonies amounted to Rs. 403,898. The repairs of the Colonial steamer "Serendib" cost Rs. 31,933 more than in 1884, while her earnings were Rs. 9,685 less. "Railway Services" increased by Rs. 232,859 owing to the extension of the line, to payment on account of sinking fund and to the low price of silver; the latter caused a loss, too, under the head "Exchange" of Rs. 67,357.

Assets and Liabilities.

4. The assets of the Government on the 1st January 1886 amounted to Rs. 12,485,405 and the liabilities to Rs. 11,668,179, or an excess of assets over liabilities of Rs. 817,226.

Public Debt.

5. The debt of the Colony on the 1st January 1886 was 2,284,094*l.*, consisting of 678,094*l.*, balance due on the several loans contracted for the improvement of the Colombo harbour, of 275,000*l.* borrowed for the construction of the railway to Matele, of 1,000,000*l.*, the loan for the extension of the main line of railway from Nawalapitiya to Nanu-oya, and of 331,000*l.* for the Colombo harbour works.

Loans made by, and payable to, the Government of Ceylon.

6. Rs. 246,824 remained on the 1st January 1886 due to the Government by the municipality of Kandy on account of the original loan of Rs. 250,000 made to the corporation for the waterworks of that town, and a balance of Rs. 9,900 out of a loan of Rs. 10,000 was due by the industrial school of Kandy.

Imports and Exports.

7. The year's trade was valued at Rs. 80,914,743 68.

	Rs.
Imports - - - -	45,132,338 46
Exports - - - -	35,782,405 22
Or, exclusive of specie :—	
Imports - - - -	40,789,318 96
Exports - - - -	33,844,125 35
Total -	74,633,444 31

A comparison with 1884 shows an increase of Rs. 335,835 75 in the value of exports, but a decrease of Rs. 2,695,031 49 in the value of goods imported. This decrease is due chiefly to a general decline in value of imports from the United Kingdom and from the British and French possessions in India, and also to ome extent to a larger stock of spirits than usual being cleared from bond in 1884 to avoid the enhanced duty recoverable since 1885.

The net result, however, to the revenue is a gain of Rs. 56,773 39, attributable partly to larger importation of grain and increased shipments of plumbago, and partly to the higher rates of duty levied under Ordinance No. 39 of 1884.

Imports.

8. Cotton manufactures fell in value to Rs. 3,470,675, yielding in duty Rs. 175,351, a decrease of Rs. 82,866 on the amount collected in 1884, but still a considerable increase over 1883 (Rs. 55,604).

The increase of 8,569 tons in the quantity of coal imported as compared with 1884 was to be expected, the requirements of the ports of Colombo and Galle necessarily growing with the expansion of Eastern trade and colonisation :—

	Tons.
1881 - - - - -	104,362
1882 - - - - -	168,244
1883 - - - - -	195,882
1884 - - - - -	192,538
1885 - - - - -	201,107

Food articles generally show increased value and larger revenue. The importation of grain, which sank in 1884, rose above that of 1883, giving Rs. 154,941 more duty than last year.

Year.	Amount.	Value.
	Bushels.	Rs. c.
1883 - - - -	5,660,650	1,783,392 53
1884 - - - -	5,430,597	1,735,443 62
1885 - - - -	5,780,675	1,890,384 77

Machinery increased in value by Rs. 143,085. There was a decrease in the importation of live stock, manure, and metals and spirits of all kinds.

Exports.

9. It is satisfactory to note that coffee and the "new products," upon the continued successful cultivation of which the commercial credit and prosperity of the Island so vastly depend, exhibit increase in quantity and value.

Coffee exported (plantation, native and Liberian) increased by cwts. 18,166 in quantity and Rs. 567,105 in value. Tea has rapidly advanced from lbs. 2,392,973, valued at Rs. 1,435,783 80 in 1884 to lbs. 4,372,721, valued at Rs. 2,842,268 80. The gradual rise in the valuation of this product since 1883 is noteworthy. In that year it was 55 cents a pound, in 1884 it rose to 60 cents, and during the past year to 65 cents. Of cinchona 1,870,891 lbs. were exported more than in 1884, but there is a falling off in value owing to lower rates for both trunk and bark and for twig ruling in 1885; cocoa also again shows an increase over 1884 both in quantity of 1,775 cwts. and value Rs. 24,794; and cardamons similarly, 106,979 lbs. and Rs. 135,153. On the other hand, a decrease has occurred in respect of most of the "native products" exported: cocoanuts fell off in quantity by

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845,595 and in value by Rs. 29,955 ; cocoanut oil by 118,771 cwts. and Rs. 1,478,050 ; copperas by 40,493, and Rs. 367,329 ; poonac by 31,946 and Rs. 74,694 ; and to these must be added lessened exportation of coir fibre and arrack ; or, speaking generally, a decrease in all the products of the cocoanut palm. Cinnamon shows a further decline of 93,348 lbs. in quantity and Rs. 46,674 in value ; but this loss is more than counterbalanced by the increase under timber, plumbago, tobacco, and areca nuts exported.

Shipping.

10. The simultaneous decrease of 306 in the number and increase of 64,672 in tonnage, of vessels entered inwards, is accounted for by a larger class of vessels frequenting the port of Colombo. There was a decrease of 14,046 tons outwards. During 1885 148 vessels, of 244,131 tons, called at Colombo to coal against 135 vessels, aggregating 217,490 tons, in 1884 ; showing an increase of 13 vessels and 26,641 tons as compared with 1884. The number of vessels and their total tonnage inwards and outwards was as follows :—

No. of Vessels.		Tonnage.	
Inwards.	Outwards.	Inwards.	Outwards.
2,988	2,959	1,823,117	1,738,075

Public Works.

11. During 1885, the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,189,277 67 or Rs. 209,590 23 in excess of that of 1884. The establishment was maintained at a cost of Rs. 273,150 50 (including salaries fixed and provisional and office contingencies and allowances, but exclusive of travelling allowances and other general expenses detailed under the head "Departmental charges") or Rs. 5,399 89 less than the previous year. But to this should be added Rs. 58,393 33, the sum spent in travelling expenses by the Department, thus raising the total cost of the establishment to Rs. 331,543 83, or 15·14 per cent. of the aggregate expenditure against Rs. 336,605 04 for 1884.

The mileage of principal roads remains virtually the same as in the past year, viz., 2,869.67, but the average cost of their upkeep was reduced from Rs. 376 86 to Rs. 296 43 per mile.

The large increase in the expenditure on irrigation works (including maintenance, viz., Rs. 306,687) as compared with Rs. 188,418 44 in 1884, is due to the general impulse in this direction awakened throughout the Island, but in great part to the prosecution of several extensive schemes, notably the restoration of the important Kalawewa and Yodi Ela works.

The subjoined tables exhibit:—

(1.) The classified expenditure of the Department under the heads (*a*) Establishment, (*b*) Upkeep, (*c*) Departmental and miscellaneous charges, (*d*) New works and buildings, and (*e*) Irrigation works.

(2.) The funds from which the above expenditure has been met.

(3.) The proportionate expenditure, including cost of establishment, incurred in each Province.

(4.) An abstract of the expenditure on the various classes of public works and charges in the several provinces.

(1.)

——	1885.	1884.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Establishment, including allowances and contingencies - - -	273,150 54	278,550 39	—	5,399 85
Up-keep of roads, bridges, canals, and irrigation works - - -	1,006,883 25	1,232,503 14	—	225,619 89
Repairs of buildings - -	122,202 64	117,694 44	4,508 20	—
Departmental charges and miscellaneous - -	114,201 76	96,210 09	17,991 67	—
New works and buildings -	130,192 63	6,226 34	123,966 29	—
Alterations and additions to buildings - -	97,677 72	11,627 54	86,050 18	—
New roads and additions to roads - - -	124,322 33	26,674 51	97,647 82	—
New bridges - -	13,959 80	21,782 55	—	7,822 75
Irrigation works - -	306,687 00	188,418 44	118,268 56	—
Total - -	2,189,277 67	1,979,687 44	448,432 72	238,842 49

(2.)

——	1885.	1884.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Supply Bill, 1885 - -	1,676,444 25	1,622,491 70	53,952 55	—
Supplementary Supply Bill, 1885 - - -	94,687 60	30,193 98	64,493 62	—
Amounts in deposit -	55,718 79	6,524 60	49,194 19	—
Unexpended balance of previous years - -	11,653 39	32,901 18	—	21,247 79
Road Ordinance funds -	240,820 47	237,125 18	3,695 29	—
Private contribution -	15,455 07	33,396 81	—	17,941 74
Loan Board funds - -	34,363 15	—	34,363 15	—
From other departments -	58,244 95	14,454 08	43,790 87	—
From vote for Colombo waterworks - -	1,890 00	2,599 91	—	709 91
	2,189,277 67	1,979,687 44	249,489 67	39,899 44

CEYLON.

(3.)

	1885.	1884.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Western Province - -	716,895 08	597,463 06	119,433 02	—
North-western Province -	134,847 18	145,282 64	—	10,435 46
Southern Province -	156,586 40	177,985 21	—	21,398 81
Eastern Province - -	244,045 03	139,101 86	104,943 17	—
Northern Province -	171,719 79	149,487 20	22,232 59	—
North Central Province -	231,478 91	173,962 51	57,516 40	—
Central Province - -	533,705 28	596,404 96	—	62,699 68
Total - -	2,189,277 67	1,979,687 44	304,124 18	94,533 95

(4.)

Heads of Service.	Western.	North-western.	Southern.	Eastern.	Northern.	North Central.	Central.	Total.
Works and Buildings.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
			1,400 00					*1,400 00*
New works and buildings -	99,526 83	6,600 57	1,344 35	- - -	15,312 90	- - -	13,924 60	136,709 25
Alterations and additions to buildings - -		*240 00*			*1,170 54*			*1,410 54*
	55,322 74	3,606 60	4,145 23	567 83	6,203 17	488 90	18,305 78	88,640 25
Repairs to buildings - - -	*397 06*	*76 88*	*2,037 40*	*3,938 37*		*1,272 45*	*2,469 50*	*10,191 66*
	49,719 89	3,961 25	6,574 47	11,7 8 46	12,228 57	2,037 95	32,292 02	118,602 61
Roads, Streets, Bridges, and Canals.								
New roads - -	14,129 56	826 13	- - -	- - -	12,177 04	- - -	28,529 65	55,662 38
Additions and improvements to roads - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	*3,879 73* 58,620 06	4,241 76	132 73	*1,777 03* 3,534 44	*5,656 76* 66,528 99
	72,357 11	*31,586 35*	*33,110 70*	*7,557 53*	*27,047 14*	*9,063 74*	*43,488 39*	*224,210 96*
Up-keep of roads -	195,052 13	23,593 99	37,534 79	64,583 39	48,843 24	27,108 81	256,979 48	653,695 83
	1,184 15							*1,184 15*
New bridges - -	14,475 65	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	14,475 65
Repair of bridges -	20,376 25	886 72	8,974 56	2,953 04	2,398 46	- - -	1,193 69	36,782 72
	9,360 60	*1,846 40*			*1,014 47*			*12,221 47*
Inland navigation -	5,904 44	10,185 82	- - -	- - -	3,756 23	- - -	13,836 65	33,983 14
Irrigation Works.								
New works - -	7,445 42	20,360 29	23,664 06	52,128 47	9,977 89	158,054 11	36,723 72	308,353 96
Up-keep works -	1,128 15	5,682 21	12,258 28	9,587 48	119 48	6,391 72	1,030 55	36,197 87
Departmental Charges.								
Ferry boats -	744 46	389 25	998 33	824 87	- - -	- - -	- - -	2,956 91
General service -	5,694 74	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1,163 41	6,858 15
Miscellaneous -	50,344 14	5,621 64	6,906 87	5,517 56	7,831 87	6,760 10	17,421 70	100,403 88
	83,298 92	*33,749 63*	*36,548 10*	*15,375 36*	*29,232 15*	*10,336 19*	*47,734 92*	*256,275 54*
	519,864 40	82,014 47	102,400 94	206,571 16	123,090 61	200,974 32	424,935 69	1,659,851 59
Establishment -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	273,150 54
								256,275 54
Total Rs. -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1,933,002 13

The figures in *italics* denote expenditure of Road Ordinance Funds and private contribution.

The furniture of Queen's Houses has been kept in good condition; and the buildings themselves are in a fair state of repair.

Breakwater.

12. The breakwater was completed early in the year with the exception of the bag work under water.

Cubic yards 182,513 of sand were dredged from the harbour during 1885 and all taken out to sea, raising the total quantity dredged up to 31st December 1885 cubic yards 869,972. The year's expenditure amounted to Rs. 366,147 30, or a total expenditure on harbour works at its close of Rs. 8,341,214 54.

Survey Department.

13. The operations of this Department, though showing less remunerative results than in the previous years, have been important and of an unusually diverse character. The extent of Crown land surveyed for sale comprised an area of 22,085 acres as against 21,943 acres in 1884. Of the land sold in 1885 Europeans purchased 2,959 acres and 19,125 acres were disposed of to natives. The price per acre paid by the former was at an average rate of Rs. 14 15, while that paid by the latter was at an average of Rs. 17 61 per acre. The Europeans paid a higher rate, but the natives rather lower rate than in the previous year. The demand for land does not decrease, speaking generally, but the Department has been unable to keep pace with the applications for survey, the arrears of applications awaiting attention having increased at the close of the year to 7,024 in respect of 34,082 acres.

The total expenditure through the Department amounted to Rs. 369,479, but certain deductions for special work have to be made, inclusive of actual reimbursements, which reduces the net expenditure to Rs. 275,202.

The sale of lands produced Rs. 327,283, and survey fees, sale of plans, &c., gave an additional sum of Rs. 54,541.

The Department took on hand the great triangulation of the northern parts of the Island and the connexion of the Ceylon and Indian systems of triangles. The topographical survey was also recommenced and a beginning was made towards covering the Island with a network of lines of initial levelling. The special work of making surveys and borings on behalf of the Imperial Government for the proposed graving dock at Trincomalee was performed by officers of the Department.

Railway.

14. During the year under review the main line extension was opened to Nanu-Oya (four miles from Nuwera-Eliya). This took place on the 20th May, and from that date the main line

CEYLON.

from Colombo was of the length of 180½ miles. No satisfactory comparison can be made of the year's working with that of any previous year, as the extensions have been made by degrees, and experience has shown that the expenses incurred in the first year of opening a new line or portion of a line forms no criterion of future average expenditure. It may, however, be noted that the cost per train mile was reduced on the main line extension from Rs. 3 54 in 1884 to Rs. 3 14 in 1885 and that the per-centage of working expenses to receipts on the same line was 55·9 in 1885 instead of 71 as it was in 1884.

The result of the year's working of the whole railway system was as follows:—

	Rs.
Receipts - - - -	2,605,658
Expenditure - - -	1,467,699
Net profits - - -	1,137,959

The original capital expenditure on the main line (inclusive of the extension to Naualapitiya) and seaside line to Kalutara has been paid off, and the profit to the Government on the working of the whole railway system in 1885 was equal to 8·2 per cent.

The number of passengers carried during the year and the amount received therefrom were as follows:—

Class.	Number.	Amount.
		Rs.
First - - - -	39,600	63,508
Second - - - -	118,563	88,286
Third - - - -	1,688,264	609,191
Total - - -	1,846,427	760,985

This shows a net decrease of Rs. 51,041 on the returns for 1884, arising chiefly from the fact that there was a falling off to the number of 250,000 third-class passengers in 1885.

Of goods, exclusive of those conveyed for public works, there was a total of 126,870 tons carried over the lines during the year, which was less by 1,448 tons than the quantity in 1884. The falling off was chiefly in coffee, manure, and timber, while there was an increase in tea, rice, plumbago, cocoanuts, and Cinchona.

Legislation.

15. There were fifteen Ordinances passed during the year, all of which have received Her Majesty's confirmation and gracious

allowance. Of these special mention may be made of the following :—

No. 19—under which the salaries of public officers are exempted from attachment, sequestration, or seizure in execution.

No. 20—to consolidate and amend the law providing for the granting of pensions to widows and children of deceased public officers.

No. 21—by which the system of postal orders, similar to those in vogue in the United Kingdom, is established in the Colony.

No. 26—which consolidates and amends the law relating to Ceylon railways, and to the conveyance thereby of passengers and goods.

Public Health.

16. The number of deaths registered during the year was 81,908 against 62,398 during 1884, an increase of 19,510. The death-rate was 29·3 against 22·4, or 6·9 per mille in excess of the rate for the previous year.

The birth-rate per mille was 28 against 31 for 1884, 29·7 for 1883, and 26·82 for 1882. The registration of deaths is compulsory, that of births is not; the birth-rate, therefore, may not be accepted as accurate. The principal causes of deaths were fevers—21,523 against 13,385 during 1884—dysentery, and infantile disorders. There were 93 cases of suicide and 8 persons were judicially executed. The number of patients treated in the hospitals and asylums was 23,847, an increase of 4,268 on the number for 1884. Of these 2,931 died, the per-centage of deaths on the number of cases treated being 12·29. The death-rate for mixed races was 8·04 against 6·78 for 1884, and 6·75 for 1883, and for Malabars 20·29 against 18·53 for 1884 and 16·39 for 1883. The number of cases treated at out-door dispensaries again increased from 142,373 in 1884 to 156,693 in 1885, and the contributions of the patients from Rs. 13,408 to Rs. 14,096. 9,282 patients were treated at dispensaries in the planting districts where the Medical Aid Ordinances are in operation. The cost of the medical establishment, including salaries, allowances, and contingent charges, was Rs. 215,353, a slight decrease on the cost for 1884. There was a larger expenditure, however, too, under the head "Hospitals and sanitation," the figures being for 1885 Rs. 253,480 and for 1884 Rs. 238,204. Increases also occurred under the other heads of service, "Transport," "Rent" and "General." The whole expenditure, Rs. 544,535, for 1885 is in excess of Rs. 507,086 for 1884 by Rs. 37,449.

The cost of working the Medical Aid Ordinances amounted to Rs. 126,816 against Rs. 118,614 for 1884. Rs. 93,985 of this amount was met by receipts under the 4th clause of Ordinance No. 9 of 1882 and under the 15th and 19th clauses of Ordinance No. 17 of 1880 and by receipts on account of medicines sold, leaving a charge on the general revenue of Rs. 32,831. Adding this amount to the total found above, Rs. 544,535, after deducting from the latter an item of Rs. 11,092 cost of medicines supplied from the general medical stores for the purposes of the Medical Aid Ordinances, the gross charge on the revenue for

CEYLON.

medical relief was Rs. 566,274 against Rs. 516,770 for 188—4 an increase of Rs. 49,504, which increase must be attributed to a generally unsatisfactory state throughout the year of the health of the people.

Education.

17. The number of children which came under the cognizance of the Department of Public Instruction was 105,604. The total in the previous year was 101,555. In 1884 the number of schools from which returns were received was 1,820, and in 1885 this number increased to 3,417. The increase in the number of schools is mainly due to the addition for the first time of detailed returns from Buddhist Temples, or Pansala schools. Of these there are included 1,769 schools with only 9,701 scholars.

Bearing in mind that at the end of 1,884 the Government closed all but three of its English schools on the score that retrenchment in regard to expenditure on education was absolutely necessary, it is satisfactory to note that, notwithstanding adverse circumstances, there was a slight increase in the number of children taught in the Government schools. This increase was 506 scholars, and the smallness of it is attributed by the Director of Public Instruction to the unusual sickness which prevailed during the year.

To the same cause it is considered that the falling off in the attendance at the grant-in-aid schools was due. Of these schools there were 866 in 1885, or 37 more than in 1884, and yet there were fewer scholars by 1,695 in the former year. The number of scholars for 1885 aggregated 58,918, of whom 42,917 were boys and 16,001 were girls.

Of the private, or unaided, schools mention has already been made of the Pansala schools and of their number. To these have to be added other unaided schools, many of which have taken up English teaching which the Government has almost entirely abandoned, and the total number of such schools is 2,134 with 20,062 scholars (17,548 boys and 2,514 girls) as against 560 schools with 13,265 scholars in 1884.

The following returns for the two years of 1,884 and 1,885 give the more important details as to the extent of educational work in the Colony:—

———	1884.	1885.	Increase.	Decrease.
Scholars in Government Schools - -	27,677	26,624	—	1,053
Scholars in grant-in-aid schools examined -	59,776	57,320	—	2,456
Scholars in grant schools not examined - -	837	1,598	761	—
Scholars in unaided schools	13,265	20,062	6,797	—
Total scholars in Ceylon -	101,555	105,604	7,558	3,509
	Net increase - -		4,049	—

1884.

——	Number of Schools.	Number of Boys. under nominal instruction.	Number of Girls. under nominal instruction.	Total Number of Boys and Girls under nominal instruction.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage.
GOVERNMENT.						
English - -	24	1,512	431	1,943	1,628	83·73
Anglo-vernacular -	24	2,282	141	2,423	1,586	65·45
Vernacular - -	383	18,986	4,325	23,311	14,893	63·88
GRANT-IN-AID.						
English - -	87	6,778	1,040	7,818	5,565	71·18
Anglo-vernacular -	58	3,467	800	4,267	2,841	66·58
Vernacular - -	669	33,345	14,346	47,691	28,603	59·97
Total - -	1,245	66,370	21,083	87,453	55,116	—

1885.

——	Number of Schools.	Number of Boys under nominal instruction.	Number of Girls under nominal instruction.	Total Number of Boys and Girls under nominal instruction.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage.
GOVERNMENT.						
English - -	3	384	—	384	313	81·51
Anglo-vernacular -	26	2,190	230	2,420	1,551	64·09
Vernacular - -	388	19,562	4,258	23,820	14,070	59·06
GRANT-IN-AID.						
English - -	88	6,660	1,111	7,771	5,601	72·07
Anglo-vernacular -	55	3,148	772	3,920	2,507	63·95
Vernacular - -	676	31,908	13,721	45,629	26,665	58·30
Total -	1,236	63,852	20,092	83,944	50,707	—

It may be added that the only remaining schools under Government management where English is the medium of instruction are the Royal College, the School of Agriculture, and the Railway Night School.

For the Cambridge local examination held in December 1884 there were 135 candidates and 92 obtained passes. In last December the number of candidates was 202, and the result is not yet known. One youth passed in the honours division of the June Matriculation Examination of the London University, another passed the ordinary matriculation examination, and a third passed the intermediate examination in arts.

The total expenditure by the Education Department was Rs. 426,299. This amount is less by Rs. 62,357 than that spent in the previous year, and is also less than any expenditure under the same heading in any year since 1878. The principal saving

CEYLON.

arose through the abolition of the Government English schools, and the reduction of grants to English grant-in-aid schools.

The following tables show the cost of education in the different kinds of schools in the Colony:—

Government Schools.

Schools.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils on List.	Average daily Attendance.	Cost of educating each Pupil for the Year.		
				By Receipts.	Net cost to Government.	Gross Cost.
BOYS'.						
English, High - -	2	345	298	Rs. c. 38 85	Rs. c. 61 55	Rs. c. 100 40
Do. Elementary -	1	39	15	—	0 04	0 04
Anglo-vernacular -	23	2,179	1,424	0 81	10 51	11 33
Vernacular - -	306	19,513	11,598	0 02	4 46	4 48
Total, boys' -	332	22,076	13,335	0 70	5 94	6 65
GIRLS'.						
English, High - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Elementary -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anglo-vernacular -	3	241	127	0 18	7 19	7 37
Vernacular - -	82	4,307	2,472	—	4 19	4 19
Total, girls' -	85	4,548	2,599	—	4 35	4 36
Grand total -	417	26,624	15,934	0 58	5 67	6 26

Grant-in-aid Schools.

Schools.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils on List.	Average Attendance.	Government Expenditure.	Gross Cost to Government of educating each Pupil.
English, High - -	44	5,185	3,822	Rs. c. 26,542 00	Rs. c. 5 11
Do. Elementary -	53	2,960	2,022	10,230 90	3 45
Anglo-vernacular - -	59	3,968	2,553	24,622 50	6 20
Vernacular - - -	710	46,805	27,292	105,584 00	2 25
Total - -	866	58,918	35,689	166,979 40	2 83

Criminal Statistics.

18. The returns for 1885 show in most respects a considerable improvement on the previous year. Fewer offences were reported to the police or the magistrates, and fewer persons were arrested

or summoned. The numbers for the last three years are as follows:—

	1883.	1884.	1885.
Offences reported - - -	62,845	71,177	50,406
Persons arrested or summoned - -	123,672	128,381	87,597

The summary convictions amounted to 12,961, or 822 more than in 1884, while in the superior courts there were 1,330 convictions or 84 less than in the previous year. The acquittals in the inferior courts numbered 66,922 and in the superior courts 942, being in proportion less than in 1884.

Offences against the person show a steady decrease, but on the other hand offences against property and cattle stealing were more numerous. The offences against property, which were summarily dealt with, increased from 1,437 in 1883, 1,424 in 1884, to 2,323 in 1885; while in the superior courts the convictions for the same three years were 465, 414, and 457 respectively. Regarding cattle stealing, an offence tried summarily for the first time last year, there were in the inferior and superior courts a total of 345 convictions against 241 in 1884 and 233 in 1883. The poverty of the people may be taken as the cause of the prevalence of this particular offence as well as of other offences against property.

The indictments for murder numbered 67, or 4 more than in 1884. Judgment for the Crown was given in 24 cases. There were eight executions. Twenty-two persons were indicted for rape, of whom 15 were convicted.

Prisons.

19. The number of prisoners in all the gaols of Ceylon was 2,657 on the 1st January 1885 and at the close of the year they had increased to 4,066. The daily average was 3,029 in 1884 and 3,448 in 1885. The increase is mainly observable under the head of road defaulters. The escapes numbered 46 against 35 in 1884 and 25 in 1883. Gaol punishments were awarded in 2,416 cases, of which 2,380 were dealt with by the superintendents. Whipping was inflicted in 46 cases, and penal diet or forfeiture of marks were the punishments chiefly given.

The total cost of the gaols in the Island amounted to Rs. 516,450, of which the establishments cost Rs. 157,079, and the estimated value of the prisoners' earnings was Rs. 323,261.

CECIL C. SMITH,
Colonial Secretary.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. 4.

Governor Sir F. A. WELD, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon EDWARD STANHOPE, M.P.

SIR, Perak, September 1, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the report of the Colonial Secretary upon the Blue Book for the year 1885.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Edward Stanhope, M.P. &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) FRED. A. WELD, Governor.

REPORT on the STRAITS SETTLEMENTS BLUE BOOK for the Year 1885.

FINANCE.

Revenue and expenditure.

1. The revenue of the Colony received during the year 1885 amounted to $3,508,075, and the expenditure defrayed during the year amounted to $3,593,149, showing a deficiency on the year's transactions of $85,074.* The following comparative statement gives particulars of the revenue and expenditure in 1884 and 1885 :—

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
——	1884.	1885.	——	1884.	1885.
	$	$		$	$
Land revenue	529,469	287,976	Salaries	885,347	933,165
Rents, exclusive of land	5,671	6,216	Contingencies	15,562	27,135
Licenses	2,152,554	2,152,080	Pensions	81,493	84,523
Stamps	293,307	320,659	Revenue services	51,108	87,769
Port and harbour dues	74,303	72,583	Administration of justice	5,603	7,254
Postage	90,259	98,787	Ecclesiastical	1,173	1,216
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	55,000	49,281	Charitable allowances	16,597	13,600
Fees of office	16,241	18,335	Education	99,018	125,607
Reimbursements (including municipal contribution towards police expenditure, $50,606).	130,482	124,344	Medical	93,911	102,907
			Police	53,117	81,049
			Gaols	64,640	67,853
			Harbour department	11,356	11,691
			Lighthouses	18,640	26,059
			Government vessels	41,824	26,781
Sale of Government property	495	2,687	Conveyance of mails	28,437	†190,389
Interest	127,827	119,435	Rent	10,092	—
Miscellaneous receipts	7,166	214,460	Transport	60,950	61,959
Special receipts	33,157	41,232	Interest	38,551	46,003
			Miscellaneous services	126,563	169,425
			Works and buildings	973,235	994,723
			Roads, streets, and bridges	257,511	282,213
			Land and houses purchased	10,365	4,793
			Military expenditure	239,910	239,606
			Native States	47,599	3,938
			Special expenditure	5,429	3,491
Total	3,515,841	3,508,075	Total	3,238,031	3,593,149

* Allowing for arrears at the beginning and end of the year, the revenue was $3,505,513, and the expenditure $3,462,695, giving a surplus of $42,818, and raising the net balance to the credit of the Colony, as shown in the next statement, from $1,041,712 to $1,084,530.

† Includes $137,417 for arrears of Imperial share of postage.

Assets and liabilities.

2. The following statement gives particulars of the assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the year 1885 :—

Assets.			Liabilities.		
——	1st January 1885.	31st December 1885.	——	1st January 1885.	31st December 1885.
	$	$		$	$
Cash on current accounts or on fixed deposit with local banks - -	523,247	254,163	Debenture loan - -	304,909	275,576
			Deposits, &c. - -	255,765	272,288
			Expenditure in arrears -	145,502	15,048
Balance on Crown Agents' account and Bills *in transitu* - - -	19,712	21,136			
Invested in Government of India loans - -	500,000	500,000			
Loans to Native States -	109,661	204,000	Net balance to the credit of the Colony -	1,041,712	1,084,530
Loans to Municipalities -	302,500	452,500			
Miscellaneous advances -	231,679	122,611			
Singapore defences account	43,648	78,153			
Revenue in arrears -	17,441	14,879			
Total - -	1,747,888	1,647,442	Total - -	1,747,888	1,647,442

Revenue.

Land revenue.

3. The following statement gives particulars of the land revenue collected in 1884 and 1885 :—

——	1884.			1885.		
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Premium on leases	22,608	8,676	578	30,013	970	1,136
Land sales - -	196,716	156,881	—	111,196	—	—
Rents - - -	35,339	27,256	55,767	40,898	26,319	52,544
Tenths and royalties	2,571	1,995	9,581	2,451	1,680	9,201
Miscellaneous -	3,448	7,424	630	4,148	6,831	589
Total - - -	260,682	202,232	66,556	188,706	35,800	63,470
	529,470			287,976		

Licenses.

4. The excise farms and the pawnbrokers farm, the rents of which are included under the head of licenses, were re-let in the year 1885, but the rents under the new farms did not become payable till January 1886, and they do not, therefore, affect the accounts

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

for 1885. The following statement shows the rents for the several farms for the periods 1883–1885 and 1886–1888 respectively : —

	1883–85.	1886–88.
Opium—		
Singapore - - - -	960,000	1,032,000
Penang - - - -	480,000	600,000
Malacca - - -	153,600	147,600
Total - - -	1,593,600	1,779,600
Spirits—		
Singapore - -	204,000	250,800
Penang - - - -	216,000	223,200
Malacca - - - -	34,200	39,000
Total - - -	454,200	513,000
Pawn—		
Singapore - - - -	58,320	90,240
Penang - - - - -	42,000	52,800
Malacca - - - -	3,960	5,760
Total - - -	104,280	148,800

Stamps.

5. The revenue under stamps shows an increase of $27,352.51 ; of this, under revenue and impressed stamps, the excess, compared with that of the previous year, is as follows :—

	$
Singapore - - - -	15,179.13
Penang - - - -	9,508.46
Malacca - - - -	660.31
	25,347.90

showing expansion of trade in the three Settlements. The difference, $2,004.61, is owing to increase on judicial stamps.

Port and harbour dues.

6. The revenue shows a decrease of $1,719.97, owing to the great reduction made by Government in the fees for passenger licenses.

Public works aggregate expenditure.

7. The expenditure in 1885 on public works (exclusive of establishments*) as compared with the similar expenditure on the previous year, is shown in the following statement:—

	1884.		1885.	
	Works.	Roads.	Works.	Roads.
	$	$	$	$
Singapore -	563,551	57,214	596,093	73,904
Penang - - -	357,254	135,429	327,595	123,904
Malacca - - -	52,431	64,868	71,034	84,405
Total -	973,236	257,511	994,722	282,213

Principal works.

8. The following are the principal works undertaken, carried on, or completed in 1885:—

Principal Works.	Estimated Cost.	Actual Payment. Completed Works.		Actual Payments. Works in progress.	
		1885.	Prior to 1885.	Prior to 1885.	1885.
SINGAPORE.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Magistrates' Courts - -	70,100 00	72,426 24	669 34	—	—
Tĕluk Ayer Reclamation -	507,071 00	—	—	515,665 84	35,620 64
Tĕluk Ayer Police Station	17,500 00	—	—	6,213 83	11,209 28
Library and Museum -	83,530 00	—	—	16,303 17	4,446 12
Erection of new offices for Protector of Chinese	40,500 00	—	—	4,624 84	17,019 16
New Kampong Malacca Bridge - - - -	49,513 00	—	—	11,346 40	12,869 52
New River Wall and Quay, North and South Kampong, Malacca -	100,400 00	—	—	36,867 93	19,944 86
Construction of new lunatic asylum - -	239,854 00	—	—	9,929 14	69,549 80
Improvements to Singapore River - -	93,486 00	—	—	76,426 93	19,045 19
New Central Police Station	140,219 00	—	—	55,983 63	49,296 73
Coleman Bridge - -	80,000 00	—	—	—	54,872 34
Pulau Pisang Lighthouse	39,500 00	—	—	816 83	33,368 62
†Quarters for eight warders - - -	17,550 00	—	13,161 68	—	—
Kampong Saigon Police Station and barracks -	11,000 00	—	10,730 89	—	—

* The salaries of the Public Works Establishments as borne on the Estimates for 1885 were as follows:—

	$
Singapore - - - - -	35,940
Penang - - - - -	23,348
Malacca - - - - -	13,260
	72,548

† Six quarters only were built.

Principal Works.	Estimated Cost.	Actual Payment. Completed Works.		Actual Payments. Works in progress.	
		1885.	Prior to 1885.	Prior to 1885.	1885.
PENANG.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Re-construction of Brick Kiln Station, Married Barracks - - -	10,150 00	—	—	—	4,999 59
Renewing Butterworth Central Barracks - -	13,530 00	—	—	—	5,990 00
Police Station at Nibong Tĕbal - - -	20,500 00	7,500 00	12,999 03	—	—
Court House at Balik Pulau - - -	11,900 00	3,791 25	9,299 98	—	—
Construction and maintenance of Vernacular Schools - - -	15,000 00		14,999 65	—	—
New Government Offices	250,000 00	—	—	239 07	9,492 95
Iron jetty at Penang -	28,600 00	—	—	—	1,045 64
Improvements to Prangin Ditch - - -	25,100 00	—	—	13,573 36	10,622 59
Reclamation scheme -	518,914 00	—	—	205,336 38	132,011 46
MALACCA.					
Rebuilding in a permanent manner five police barracks at Lûbok China stations - - -	8,750 00	—	8,749 80	—	—
Construction and maintenance of Vernacular Schools - - - -	15,000 00	—	14,998 81	—	—
Erection of new signal flagstaff - - -	4,500 00	—	4,497 84	—	—
Construction of telephone line to Lûbok China and intermediate police stations - - -	8,250 00	—	7,454 32	—	—
New pier - - -	32,000 00	—	—	—	5,159 26
Services connected with the proposed water supply - - -	1,500 00	—	—	1,316 76	857 64
Demarcation of Malacca Frontier - - - -	—	—	—	2,834 13	1 495 49

Military expenditure.

9. The expenditure classed in the accounts as military expenditure includes the Colony's annual contribution of $235,976 towards the expenditure on account of Her Majesty's troops quartered in the Colony and some minor expenses for rent allowances to officers, &c. The cost of the up-keep of military buildings amounted to $39,943.

Assets and liabilities. Public debt.

10. The amount exhibited in the statement of assets and liabilities as due on the 31st December 1885 under Debenture Loan, $275,576, represents (at exchange of 3*s.* 6½*d.* to the dollar) the unredeemed balance 48,800*l.* of a loan of 100,000*l.* at four and a half per cent. interest contracted in 1877. The loan is in course of redemption through a sinking fund, at the rate of five and a half per cent. per annum. The amount so redeemed in 1886 will be 5,500*l.* (five and a half per cent. on 100,000*l.*), plus the amount 2,304 of the interest at four and a half per cent. on the portion 51,200*l.*, redeemed up to the close of 1885.

Local Revenues.

Municipal accounts.

11. The following statement gives the revenue and expenditure of the municipalities of the three Settlements for 1884 and 1885,

and particulars of their assets and liabilities at the close of the several years.

Municipalities.	1884.	1885.
REVENUE—	$	$
Singapore - - - -	451,448	506,633
Penang - - - -	223,365	288,156
Malacca - - - -	28,818	27,089
	703,631	821,878
EXPENDITURE—		
Singapore - - - -	452,249	468,124
Penang - - - -	217,315	263,273
Malacca - - - -	26,481	27,151
	696,045	758,548
CASH BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR—		
Singapore - - -	(Debit) 801	38,509
Penang - - - -	6,050	30,933
Malacca - - - -	2,337	2,275
	9,188	71,717
LOANS OUTSTANDING AT CLOSE OF YEAR—		
Singapore (Government) - -	170,000	230,000
Penang do. - -	132,500	197,500
Malacca do. - -	—	25,000
	302,500	452,500

LEGISLATION.

Ordinances.

12. The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year 1885. All have received the gracious confirmation and allowance of Her Majesty the Queen :—

Ordinances passed in 1885.

No. I.—An Ordinance to make provision for granting pensions to widows and children of deceased public officers.

No. II.—An Ordinance to amend "The Steam-vessels Ordinance, 1882."

No. III.—An Ordinance for the purposes of vesting certain property known as the Exchange Buildings, Singapore, in the Chairman for the time being of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce and Singapore Exchange respectively.

No. IV.—An Ordinance to amend the law relating to dangerous societies.

No. V.—An Ordinance to amend the law as to pilots and pilotage.

No. VI.—An Ordinance to amend "The Preservation of the Peace Ordinance, 1872."

No. VII.—An Ordinance to enable sentences of imprisonment awarded to British subjects in certain of the Native States of the Malay Peninsula to be carried into effect in the Colony.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. VIII.—An Ordinance for making temporary provision for securing the status of French mail steamers at the ports of the Colony.

No. IX.—An Ordinance to provide for the construction, maintenance, and working of tramways in the Settlement of Prince of Wales' Island.

No. X.—An Ordinance to amend the law relating to stamp duties, and to make further provision for collecting such duties.

No. XI.—An Ordinance to make provision by law for the engagement of persons to serve in the police force.

No. XII.—An Ordinance to amend "The Passengers Ships Ordinance, 1874."

No. XIII. An Ordinance for making final provision for the public service for the year 1884.

No. XIV.—An Ordinance to remove doubts concerning the legality of statutory declarations purporting to be made by virtue of the provisions of the Act 5 & 6 Will. 4. c. 62.

No. XV.—An Ordinance to amend "The Courts Ordinance, 1878."

No. XVI.—An Ordinance for making provision for the public service for the year 1886.

Post Office.

13. The following statements give particulars of the business transacted in 1884 and 1885 respectively:—

Letters, &c.

	1884.		1885.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters - - -	790,442	765,110	781,915	799,851
Post Cards - -	3,678	7,901	6,506	11,678
Newspapers - -	337,627	304,297	350,872	314,006
Books - - -	52,341	20,594	48,440	28,990
Patterns - - -	8,920	7,628	8,769	5,735
Parcels - - -	2,744	1,844	2,999	2,178
Total - -	1,195,752	1,107,374	1,199,501	1,162,438

Money Orders.

Money Orders.	Issued.	Paid.	Issued.	Paid.
United Kingdom - £	3,953.11.4	208.0.10	3,992.5.1	278.7.0
Straits Settlements - $	5,283.74	5,083.60	6,251.25	6,306.95
China and Japan - $	2,012.30	1,088.69	2,516.61	1,785.34
Native States - - $	965.32	15,687.52	1,839.09	16,590.82
Ceylon -Rs.	8,322.41	49.92	11,269.59	306.10
India - - -Rs.	66,422.4.5	4,014.0.7	78,069.3.0	3,865.2.0
Johor - - - $	48.40	3,351.75	138.05	2,616.70
Labuan - - $	—	—	35.00	20.00
Australian Colonies - £	—	—	57.1.9	115.14.8
British Postal Orders - £	—	—	609.10.6	—
Colonial Postal Orders $	—	—	1,791.00	1,091.00

Savings Banks.

14. Particulars of the business transacted by the banks in Singapore, Penang and Malacca are giving in the following statement:—

	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
New accounts opened	206	104	10
Accounts closed	154	84	10
Accounts open at the end of the year	455	162	14
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Deposited, 1885	57,331 19	18,989 24	1,864 00
Repaid, 1885	53,884 31	14,020 63	1,666 97
Balance due to depositors:—			
At close of 1884	71,529 20	16,634 05	1,680 64
At close of 1885	78,529 27	22,513 56	1,981 44

Education.

15. The number of schools in the several Settlements and the numbers of children attending (average enrolment) in 1884 and 1885 are given in the following table:—

Settlement.	1884.		1885.	
	No. of Schools.	Average Enrolment.	No. of Schools.	Average Enrolment.
SINGAPORE.				
English Schools, Boys	10	1,521	12	1,658
Do. Girls	3	430	3	399
English and Vernacular, Girls' Schools	1	219	1	188
Malay, Boys' Schools	22	680	23	781
Total	36	2,850	39	3,026
PENANG.				
English Schools, Boys	5	1,128	4	1,048
Do. Girls	1	208	4	337
English and Vernacular, Boys	3	96	1	41
Do. Girls	1	208	1	224
Malay, Boys	20	1,161	21	1,161
Do. Girls	2	46	4	68
Chinese, Boys	1	48	—	—
PROVINCE WELLESLEY.				
Malay, Boys' Schools	22	1,116	36	1,298
English and Vernacular, Boys	—	—	5	141
Total	55	4,011	76	4,318
MALACCA.				
English Schools, Boys	3	465	3	511
Do. Girls	3	134	3	161
Malay, Boys' Schools	38	1,706	48	1,788
Total	44	2,305	54	2,460
Grand Total	135	9,166	169	9,804

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Population.

Census.

16. The census of 1881 gave the following results in regard to the population of the Settlements. The numbers of births and deaths registered in 1884 and 1885 are appended:—

Census 1881.

	Singapore.		Penang.		Malacca.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Europeans - - -	2,207	562	565	109	31	9	2,803	680
Eurasians - -	1,509	1,585	751	846	1,075	1,138	3,335	3,569
Malays - - -	11,471	10,684	42,560	42,212	32,784	34,729	86,815	87,625
Chinese - -	72,571	14,195	55,313	12,507	15,721	4,020	143,605	30,722
Indians - - -	9,619	2,439	20,337	6,699	1,148	743	31,104	9,881
Other Nationalities -	8,046	4,320	4,679	4,019	1,300	881	14,025	9,220
Total - -	105,423	33,785	124,205	66,392	52,059	41,520	281,687	141,697
	139,208		190,597		93,579		423,384	

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

Chinese.

Chinese immigrants.

17. The number of Chinese immigrants that arrived in Singapore in 1885 was 119,555, as against 116,053 in 1884. The following figures show how they were disposed of:—

	1884.	1885.
Remained in Singapore—		
Male - - - -	68,517	69,314
Female - - -	2,089	2,014
Proceeded to Penang—		
Male - - - -	40,480	44,096
Female - - -	1,460	1,528
Proceeded to Malacca—		
Male - - - -	978	438
Female - - -	54	37
Proceeded to other places—		
Male - - - -	2,094	1,797
Female - - -	381	331
Total - -	116,053	119,555

Contracts to labour beyond the Colony.

18. Contracts to labour beyond the Colony were entered into by the coolies at Singapore to the number of 10,209 in 1885, as against 9,962 in 1884. At Penang the numbers were, for 1885, 14,335, as against 10,988 in 1884.

No complete records of retro-migration, migration

19. No records are kept of the numbers of Chinese who return to China, nor are records kept of the number of those who move from one Settlement to another, except in the case of the newly

arrived coolies who pass on at once (*see* the foregoing statement) to Penang or Malacca, immediately after their arrival in Singapore. The numbers of emigrants to the Protected States and to Sumatra and other places are but imperfectly indicated by the numbers of contracts to labour beyond the Colony given in paragraph 18.

between Settlements, and emigration.

Indian.

20. The following are the statistics of the immigration and retro-migration of Indian coolies, as recorded in the Department of the Indian Protectorate at Penang :—

Indian immigration and retro-migration.

——	1884.	1885.
Statute Immigrants - -	1,539	1,642
Dependants - - -	177	49
Passengers - - - -	14,365	19,819
Total Arrivals - -	16,081	21,510
Returned to India - - -	10,749	13,417
Immigrants remaining in the Colony	5,332	8,093

Trade and Shipping.

21. The following table gives the values of the imports and exports at the three Settlements in 1884 and 1885. A statement is annexed showing the imports and exports of the Colony, as a whole, for the two years, and the places whence and whither the merchandise was imported and exported; and also a statement giving particulars of the values of the principal articles imported and exported in 1885 :—

Imports and exports.

——	Imports.		Exports.	
	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.
	$	$	$	$
Singapore - -	79,572,380	74,288,990	65,163,973	61,428,238
Penang - - -	31,345,270	33,169,461	36,001,341	35,937,583
Malacca - -	2,964,937	2,898,345	3,060,803	3,147,401
Total - -	113,882,587	110,356,796	104,226,117	100,513,222

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Shipping.

22. The numbers and tonnage of the vessels arrived at, and cleared from, the ports of the three Settlements in 1884 and 1885, are given in the following table:—

—	Arrivals.			
	1884.		1885.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Singapore - -	8,272	2,450,898	8,539	2,702,921
Penang - - -	4,993	1,238,889	4,460	1,337,529
Malacca - - -	2,000	210,981	2,310	188,901
Total - -	15,265	3,900,768	15,309	4,229,351

(*continued.*)

—	Departures.			
	1884.		1885.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Singapore - -	8,222	2,401,525	8,532	2,651,951
Penang - - -	5,378	1,244,730	4,920	1,341,220
Malacca - - -	2,008	211,174	2,321	189,362
Total -	15,608	3,857,429	15,773	4,182,533

Public Health.

Deaths in 1884 and 1885.

23. The registration returns of deaths in 1884 and 1885 give the following results:—

—	1884.	1885.	Increase.	Decrease.
Singapore - - - -	4,922	5,749	827	—
Penang - - - -	3,521	3,720	199	—
Province Wellesley - -	2,276	2,161	—	115
Malacca - - - -	2,784	2,465	—	319
Total - -	13,503	14,095	1,026	434

24. The increase in the rate of mortality is partly attributed to the prevalence of sporadic cholera and bowel complaints in the months of May and June, as well as of fevers to a somewhat abnormal extent. Prevalent diseases.

A statement is appended showing the work in the general hospitals. Hospitals.

25. The following are the births registered in 1884 and 1885:— Births in 1884 and 1885.

——	1884.	1885.	Increase.	Decrease.
Singapore - - - -	2,640	2,608	—	32
Penang - - - -	1,522	1,605	83	—
Province Wellesley - -	2,300	2,240	—	60
Malacca - - - -	2,718	2,715	—	3
Total - -	9,180	9,168	83	95

26. The two sexes are pretty evenly distributed in Malacca, while the disproportion between them is great in Penang, and greater still in Singapore. Hence Malacca shows the highest birth-rate, which is low in Singapore and Penang.

27. *Police and Crime.*

——	1884.				1885.			
	Cases reported.	Cases discovered.	Cases undiscovered.	Cases in which Complainant advised to proceed by Summons.	Cases reported.	Cases discovered.	Cases undiscovered.	Cases in which Complainant advised to proceed by Summons.
Singapore - - -	1,919	1,283	636	997	2,266	1,326	940	730
Penang - -	5,811	4,115	1,696	2,423	6,076	4,198	1,878	3,301
Malacca - - -	1,080	738	342	506	641	432	209	148
Total - -	8,810	6,136	2,674	3,926	8,983	5,956	3,027	4,179

Cases reported to the police.

Judicial.

28. Statistical returns of the cases dealt with by the Supreme Court on the civil and criminal sides, by the Courts of Requests, and by the police and marine magistrates, are given in the Appendix.* Judicial returns.

Prisons.

29. In each of the Settlements there is a "Civil" and a "Criminal" prison. In the civil prisons are confined prisoners sentenced to "Simple imprisonment," prisoners awaiting trial; prisoners under sentence of death, and prisoners for debt. Prisoners Civil and criminal prisons.

* Not printed.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

confined in the criminal prisons are those sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, who are divided into the following classes :—

(1.) " Revenue Grade " (prisoners for non-payment of fine).
(2.) Short sentence prisoners (sentences not exceeding six months).
(3.) Long sentence prisoners.

All long sentence prisoners from Malacca and Penang are sent up to the Singapore Prison.

J. F. DICKSON,
Singapore, 17th August 1886. Colonial Secretary.

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PENANG.

No. 5.

Governor Sir F. A. WELD, G.C.M.G. to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Government House, Penang,
MY LORD, August 19, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of the undermentioned Annual Reports for the year 1885.

1. Administration Report, Penang.
2. Administration Report, Malacca.

2. The Report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1885 will follow.

I have, &c.
The Right Hon. (Signed) FRED A. WELD,
The Earl Granville, K.G. Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT, PENANG, 1885.

COLONIAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue, Expenditure, Surplus.

1. The Colonial revenue received in Penang during 1885 amounted to $1,199,288. The expenditure for the year, including $34,808 for Penang charges defrayed by the Crown Agents in London, amounted to $983,971. There was an apparent surplus therefore in the year's transactions of $215,317, but against this must be set an amount, which has been calculated at $180,000 per annum, to represent the Penang share of general charges

defrayed in Singapore or in England; and making allowance for this, there results a true surplus of revenue over expenditure for the year of about $35,000.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1884 *and* 1885.

2. A comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for 1884 and 1885 is given in the Appendix A.*

Proportionate Sources of Revenue.

3. The ordinary Revenue for 1885 (exclusive of $186,000 for special reimbursements on account of the Beach Street reclamation works) amounted to a little over a million dollars, and the proportions in which the Revenue was derived from its several sources may be stated roughly as follows:—

Opium Farm - - -	48 per cent.
Spirit farm - - - -	22 „
Pawnbrokers' Farm - -	4 „
Stamps - - - -	10 „
Land - - - -	3½ „
Postage - - - -	2½ „
Fines, &c. - - - -	2½ „
Reimbursements - - -	3 „
Other Items - - -	4½ „
	100

Farms or Licenses.

4. The following statement shows the rents obtained from the principal "Farms" (classed as "Licenses" in the accounts) at the last three triennial lettings:—

—	1880–82.	1883–85.	1886–88.
	$	$	$
Opium - - -	440,640	480,000	582,000
Spirits - - -	178,500	216,000	240,000
Pawnbrokers - -	38,112	42,000	54,000
Total - -	657,252	738,000	876,000

Price of Chandoo.

5. The price of chandoo was raised by the farmers in 1880 from $2 per tael to $2.20 (from $2.40 to $2.60 for quantities under one tael), and these rates have since been maintained and are the maximum rates which have been allowed to be charged under the two last farm contracts.

* Not printed.

Intrinsic Value of Chandoo.

6. A chest of opium, which may be valued roughly at $600, is reckoned to yield a thousand taels of chandoo; and the intrinsic value of the chandoo per tael may be stated therefore at about 60 cents; so that the taxation resulting from the monopoly may be stated roughly as being equivalent to an import duty on opium of 250 per cent. (*See also* paragraph 60.)

Stamps.

7. The following statement gives particulars of the stamp revenue for the past three years:—

	1883.	1884.	1885.
	$	$	$
Fees of office:—			
Adhesive - - -	7,323	6,993	7,372
Revenue:—			
Adhesive - - -	18,825	19,339	19,504
Impressed - - -	30,315	35,220	43,744
Judicial:—			
Adhesive - - -	21,840	18,968	21,692
Probate:—			
Adhesive - - -	4,482	8,291	5,301
Impressed - - -	—	—	2,135
Total - -	82,785	88,811	99,748

"Adhesive" versus "Impressed" Stamps.

8. The method of collecting revenue by means of adhesive stamps (except where the duty is of trifling amount) is, in my opinion, an unsafe one; and the inexpansiveness of the adhesive stamp receipts as compared with those from impressed stamps, as shown by the above figures, is what I should have expected.

Probate Duty.

9. Probate duty was transferred from the "Adhesive" to the "Impressed" category by Ordinance X. of 1885, which came into operation on the 1st August 1885.

Land Revenue.

10. The land revenue receipts for 1884 and 1885 are shown in the following table:—

	1884.	1885.
	$	$
Premium on leases - - -	8,676	970
Rents - - - -	24,215	22,244
Miscellaneous - - -	12,460	12,405
Total - -	45,351	35,619

Further reference to this branch of the revenue will be found below under the head "Land Settlement."

Revenue and Expenditure, 1884 *and* 1885.

11. The total revenue and the total expenditure for 1885, as compared with the revenue and expenditure for 1884, are shown in the following statement:—

——	1884.	1885.	——	1884.	1885.
	$	$		$	$
Ordinary revenue	1,003,113	1,013,006	Ordinary expenditure -	853,749	851,955
Beach Street reimbursements	156,881	186,282	Beach Street Works -	133,718	132,016
Total	1,159,994	1,199,288	Total -	987,467	983,971

Works and Roads.

12. The only items of expenditure which call for particular remark are "Works and buildings" and "Roads, streets, and bridges," and (it is convenient to state this separately from ordinary "Works") the Beach Street Reclamation.

Beach Street Reclamation.

13. The reclamation of the foreshore in front of Beach Street, George Town, was begun in October 1883, and it is expected that the work will be completed before the end of this year. The length of the quay wall is 5,104 feet; the average width of the land reclaimed is about 250 feet; the area of the reclaimed land is about 25 acres; the estimated cost of the work is about $520,000; and the estimated amount of the reimbursements by the Beach Street proprietors is about $430,000. The actual expenditure to the end of 1885 was $337,352, and the reimbursements to the same date amounted to $343,163.

Quay Road and Intermediate Road.

14. A roadway 60 feet wide, measured from the edge of the quay wall, will run along the entire length of the quay from the jetty to the Prangin Ditch. Another road, 50 feet wide, running parallel with the Quay Road, and about half way between the line of the quay and the line of Beach Street, is also contemplated, if the proprietors will agree (as it seems probable they will) to give the land required gratuitously and to subscribe a

PENANG.

fund to compensate such of their number as may have buildings on the proposed line of road which it will be necessary to demolish.

Suggested Extension of Reclamation.

15. An extension of the reclamation from the Prangin Ditch to the Penang River is an undertaking which is naturally suggested by the successful completion of the first section; and in view of this, steps have already been taken to ascertain the seaward limits of the properties that abut upon the shore between those limits.

Works and Buildings.

16. Exclusive of the "Reclamation," the expenditure for works and buildings in 1885 amounted to $195,494, against $223,535 in 1884. The following statement gives particulars of the principal works:—

	Total estimated cost.	Paid prior to 1885.	Paid in 1885.
	$	$	$
Police station, Nibong Tĕbal - -	20,500	7,500	12,999
Police barracks, George Town - -	10,150	—	5,000
Police barracks, Butterworth - -	13,530	—	6,000
Police station, &c., Permâtang Pau -	6,400	—	6,396
Police telephones - - -	7,250	—	6,655
Court house, &c., Balik Pulau - -	11,900	3,791	9,300
English school, do. - -	1,300	—	1,300
Vernacular schools - - -	15,000	—	14,999
English school, Charastah, additions -	5,450	—	5,449
Government offices - - -	250,000	239	9,599
Iron jetty, George Town - -	28,600	—	1,046
Improvements, Prangin Ditch - -	25,100	13,449	10,622
Water supply, Nibong Tĕbal - -	26,000	636	500

Nibong Tĕbal Waterworks.

17. The Nibong Tĕbal water supply is being taken from a stream near Bukit Panchor. The reservoir will be 55 feet above the sea level. The supply will be carried by a seven inch main of about 24,000 feet in length.

Roads, Streets, and Bridges.

18. The expenditure for "Roads, streets, and bridges" in 1885 amounted to $123,944, against $135,429 in 1884. The following were the principal works :—

——	Total estimated cost.	Paid prior to 1885.	Paid in 1885.
	$	$	$
New road to Balik Pulau - -	72,500	29,998	32,010
New road through Trans-Krîan -	22,000	—	4,999
Metalling roads from Pĕnâga to Permâtang Bindhari - - -	21,600	10,213	11,466
Remetalling roads in the Province -	19,400	—	19,355
Renewal of bridges do. -	7,800	—	7,747
Protecting lands from floods of river Muda - - - - -	10,000	9,196	2,694

Island and Province.

19. With the exception of the road from George Town to Balik Pulau, and some $2,000 for the Government Hill roads, the whole of the expenditure under roads, streets, and bridges relates to Province Wellesley. The country roads in Prince of Wales' Island are kept up by the Municipality.

Balik Pulau Road.

20. The construction of a road to Balik Pulau was recommended in my report of the 23rd August 1880. At that time I was in the hope that it might be found practicable to carry the road direct, *viâ* Ayer Hitam, over Low's Pass. The road that is now approaching completion will measure as follows :—

	Miles.
From the Jetty to Bayang Lĕpas - -	11½
From Bayang Lĕpas to Pulau Betong -	9½
From Pulan Betong to Balik Pulau - -	4
	25

The direct road over Low's Pass runs as follows :—

	Miles.
From Jetty to foot of Hill *viâ* Ayer Hitam -	5½
Bridle Road over Hill - - -	5
Carriage Road to Court House, Balik Pulau -	½
	11

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The elevation of the Pass is about 1,160 feet. An extension of the tramway line, to which reference will be found below (paragraph 31) from Ayer Hitam over the Pass to Balik Pulau, giving direct communication between George Town and the western districts of the Island, would supply a much-felt want. There appear to be no practical difficulties in the way of such a line. The carriages could be hauled up the incline by wire rope.

THE MUNICIPALITY.

Sources of Revenue.

21. The Municipal Commissioners under the Indian Act XXVII. of 1856 levy throughout the Settlement a rate of 10 per cent. on houses and buildings, and five per cent. on lands. Taxes are also levied throughout the Settlement on horses and vehicles. Water rates in George Town are levied under Ordinance XX. of 1868. The remainder of the municipal revenue is derived from the rent of markets and a few miscellaneous sources.

Scope of Duties.

22. The full scope of the duties of the Municipality, the maintenance and extension of roads, and the conservancy of towns and villages, should logically extend to the whole Settlement; but as regards the roads in Province Wellesley, the service has always been undertaken by the Government, and as regards Prince of Wales' Island, the Government, as stated above, have undertaken the cost of the road to Balik Pulau. It has also undertaken the supply of water to Nibong Tĕbal in the Province. (*See* paragraph 17.)

Acounts, 1885.

23. The following is an abstract of the accounts of the Municipality for 1885. A more detailed statement is given in the Appendix B.

DR.		CR.	
	$		$
Ordinary revenue - -	199,556	Ordinary expenditure -	153,684
Government loan for town drainage - - - -	30,000	New market - - -	13,579
Government loan for waterworks - - -	45,000	New cemetery - -	10,607
Advances recovered - -	13,600	Town drainage - -	14,084
Balance, 1st January 1885 -	6,050	Waterworks extension -	46,730
		Government loan repaid -	10,000
		Advances - - -	14,589
		Balance, 31st December 1885	30,933
Total - -	294,206	Total - -	294,206

Outstanding Loans.

24. The balance that remained due to Government on the 31st December 1885 in respect of loans was $197,500, bearing interest at five per cent. There was also outstanding a balance of $30,000 in respect of money raised by private loans at six per cent. interest, which cannot, under the terms in which the money was borrowed, be paid off till 1887.

Principal Works, 1885.

25. The principal works undertaken or carried on during the year were:—(1) the extension of the water supply; and (2) the drainage of the town.

Extension of Water Supply.

26. The original water supply was taken from a small reservoir on the waterfall stream, about 5½ miles from the jetty, and about 235 feet above the sea level, and brought into the town by a 16-inch main. This supply proving insufficient, the Municipality were authorised to bring in a fresh supply from streams coming down from the hills in the neighbourhood of the village of Ayer Hitam, and the Government provided funds for the purpose to the extent of $45,000, by way of loan at five per cent. interest. The source of the supply is situated about 5¼ miles from the jetty, and about 70 feet above the sea level, and the water flows into the town by a 12-inch main.

27. The work was begun and finished in 1885 at a total cost of $46,730. Since its completion, the two-fold supply has proved sufficient for the wants of the town. But nearly the whole of the water from both sources was flowing down the mains (at certain hours of the day) at the close of a recent, nearly uninterrupted, drought of two months' duration; and the construction of a reservoir at Ayer Hitam, for which a site has already been acquired, will probably be found necessary before long.

Town and Suburban Drainage.

28. Previously to 1885, the drainage of the town and suburbs of George Town was commenced—by the construction of two large culverts running from south to north and following the lines of the Cantonment Road and the Pêrak and Pangkor Roads, respectively—by which much of the water which used periodically to flood the town from the westward is now intercepted and carried off direct to the sea. Another culvert similarly running northwards into the sea and following the line of the Anson Road, and a fourth running in a south-easterly direction on the line of the Seang Tek Road to join the Sungei Pînang, may perhaps be found necessary in order to complete the drainage of the districts lying outside what may be called the town drainage area. This area consists of the promontory or "Tanjong" on which the town was founded, and it is bounded on the land side by what used to be the "moat" of the town, part of which remains to this day, and is known as the "Prangin Ditch," while the rest has been filled up, its direction being marked by the line of what is called the "Transfer Road."

Town Districts.

29. In 1884 a scheme for the drainage of the area thus described, at an estimated cost of $100,000, was prepared, and a loan of

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$30,000 was authorised by Government for the purpose of carrying out a section of the scheme dealing with a district known as "Padam Garam." This section is now approaching completion.

Padam Garam District.

Expenditure on account of the works, to the extent of $14,084, was paid in 1885 (*see* the abstract of accounts above), and the balance, $15,000, is provided for in the Municipal Estimates, 1886. The work consists in the main of a covered drain running from the Prangin Ditch up Carnarvon Street with branches up Kimberley Street and Chulia Street.

30. As regards the remaining sections of the "town drainage" area, the plans and estimates for the works are now about to be re-submitted for the consideration of the Government.

Tramways.

31. In 1885 an Ordinance, No. IX., was passed to provide for the construction, maintenance and working of a tramway in Prince of Wales' Island, and the works are now about to be commenced. The lines immediately contemplated will run from the jetty to the village of Ayer Hitam, a distance of 5¼ miles, by way of the Quay Road, Prangin Road, Gladstone Road, and Penang Road, with a branch of about 2½ miles from a point near the gaol to the foot of Government Hill by way of the Western and Waterfall Roads. The advantages of an extension of the line from Ayer Hitam over the hill to Balik Pulau and the western side of the Island have already been referred to. (*See* paragraph 21.)

Population.

32. The census, 1881, gave the following results, exclusive of the population, 2,352, of Pulau Pangkor and the Dindings, which, though nominally forming part of the Settlement, are administered by Officers of the Pêrak Residency :—

Census.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Chinese - - - -	54,851	12,503	67,354
Malays - - - -	41,565	41,416	82,981
Tamils - - - -	19,183	5,961	25,144
Other nationalities - -	7,057	5,709	12,766
Total - -	122,656	65,589	188,245

33. The births and deaths registered from 1881* to 1885 were as follows :—

Births, 1881–85.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Chinese - - - -	1,407	1,250	2,657
Malays - - - -	6,257	5,546	11,803
Tamils - - - -	1,053	971	2,024
Other nationalities - -	218	206	424
Total - -	8,935	7,973	16,908

Deaths, 1881–85.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Chinese - - - -	10,225	1,480	11,705
Malays - - - -	5,594	4,753	10,347
Tamils - - - -	3,029	1,106	4,135
Other nationalities - -	398	197	595
Total - -	19,246	7,536	26,782

34. The immigration and emigration during the five years, 1881 to 1885, may be roughly stated as follows, but as regards the Chinese who left the Settlement the numbers are merely conjectured :—

Immigration, 1881–85.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Chinese - - -	208,000	8,000	216,000
Tamils - - - -	48,000	16,000	64,000
Total - -	256,000	24,000	280,000

Emigration, 1881–85 (conjectured).	Males.	Females.	Total.
Chinese - - - -	196,000	4,000	200,000
Tamils - - - -	33,000	11,000	44,000
Total - -	229,000	15,000	244,000

* Strictly the figures should be taken from April 1881 (when the Census was taken), but the error in this respect may be set against the numbers of births and deaths omitted to be registered.

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35. Combining the above figures, the following result is arrived at as the approximate numbers of the population of the Settlement at the close of 1885:—

Estimated Population at close of 1885.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Chinese - - - -	58,033	16,273	74,306
Malays - - - -	42,228	42,209	84,437
Tamils - - - -	32,207	10,826	43,033
Other nationalities - -	6,877	5,718	12,595
Total - -	139,345	75,026	214,371

36. The births and deaths in 1884 and 1885 were as follows:—

Births and Deaths in 1884 and 1885.	Births.		Deaths.	
	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.
Chinese - - - -	561	602	2,459	2,821
Malays - - - -	2,729	2,715	2,409	2,065
Tamils - - - -	435	424	829	875
Other nationalities - -	97	104	100	120
Total - -	3,822	3,845	5,797	5,881

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Deaths and Death-Rates.

37. The following table shows the numbers of deaths and the death-rates in 1884 and 1885. The rates have been calculated on the figures of the Census, 1881:—

—	Population, Census, 1881.	Deaths, 1884.	Deaths, 1885.	Death-rate, 1884.	Death-rate, 1885.
Penang, George Town	44,267	2,227	1,626	50·3	36·7
Penang, country -	46,684	1,294	2,094	27·7	44·8
Province Wellesley -	97,294	2,276	2,161	23·3	22·2
Total -	188,245	5,797	5,881	30·7	36·5

George Town.

38. The high death-rate in George Town has its origin, no doubt, in overcrowding and the absence of proper sanitary arrangements. But for the admirable supply of water, it would be doubtless very much higher. The question of the sanitary arrangements is now occupying my attention.

Country Districts.

39. The high death-rate in the country districts of Penang, as compared with that in Province Wellesley, is not thoroughly explained. It may perhaps, in a measure, be attributed to the practice among the Chinese of removing their friends into the country when attacked by disease. The deaths of persons so removed would, of course, tend to reduce the town death-rate and swell the death-rate in the country proportionately.

Hospitals.

40. The reports of the public hospitals for the year give the following results:—

	Cases treated.	Deaths.	Rate per mille.
General hospital:—			
Europeans	155	3	19
Natives	829	27	32
Prison hospital	87	5	57
Lock hospital	1,005	—	—
Pauper hospital	2,289	419	183
District hospitals:—			
Balik Pulau	478	57	129
Province Wellesley	1,331	78	58
Leper hospital, Pulau Jerajah	203	85	418

Leper Hospitals.

41. The death-rate at the Pulau Jerajah Hospital would, of course, be appalling if its special nature—a hospital for lepers—was not indicated. I believe that everything that can be done is done to soften the lot of these afflicted people, and that the death-rate does but mark the inevitable progress of their dire disease.

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Pauper Hospitals.

42. The high death-rates in the Pauper Hospital, George Town, and the Balik Pulau Hospital are also noticeable, but the explanation is simple. A large proportion of those admitted are cases beyond remedy—cases of men just brought in to die.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION, &c.

Indian Immigration Ordinance, 1884.

43. On the 1st January 1885, the Indian Immigration Ordinance of 1884 came into operation, and simultaneously all such restrictions on the free emigration of natives of India to the Straits Settlements as had previously been enforced by the Indian Government were withdrawn.

44. The principal provisions of the Ordinance may be described as follows:—

I. All natives of India are considered as "Immigrants" and (with certain specified exceptions) brought within the scope of the Ordinance.

II. No "Immigrants" (except as above) are allowed to leave the Colony unless it be,—(1) to return to British India; or (2) to go to places to which Indian emigration is allowed by the Governor, with the consent of the Indian Government.

III.—Contracts to labour (under which, if duly executed, an "Immigrant" becomes a "Statute Immigrant") are declared void unless they are executed,—(1) in the case of "first contracts" before the Indian Immigration Agent; or (2) in the case of subsequent contracts, either before the agent or a magistrate.

IV.—The terms on which such contracts may be entered into are laid down; and regulations are provided as to the treatment of statute immigrants on the estates, as to offences committed by or against statute immigrants, and as to the inspection of statute immigrants by the Indian Immigration Agent.

Immigration, 1884 *and* 1885.

45. The total Indian immigration in 1885 was 20,877, against 16,021 in 1884. The increase in the numbers may be attributed in part to the removal of the restrictions on emigration by the Indian Government (but the restrictions were largely evaded by the embarkation of immigrants at Karikal and other ports in French India), and in part to the fact that in consequence of competition on the line the rate of passage money from the Madras Presidency to the Straits has been very largely reduced.

The numbers of natives of India who returned to India in 1885 were 13,417, against 10,749 in 1884. The numbers of statute immigrants (included in the totals given in paragraph 49) were :—

	1884.	1885.
Men - - - -	1,228	795
Women - - - -	311	230
Children - - - -	117	33
Total - -	1,656	1,058

Statute Immigrants.

46. The following figures give the statistics of the statute immigrants (exclusive of children) for the year 1885 :—

Remained from previous year -	3,582	
Immigrants, first contracts - -	1,025	
Immigrants, renewed contracts -	29	
		4,636
Discharged - - -	969	
Absconded - - -	368	
Died - - - -	70	
		1,407
Remained at close of year - -		3,229

Of those so remaining on the books of the estates on the 31st December 1885 there were :—

At work - - - - -	2,970
In estate hospitals - - -	169
In Government hospitals - - -	49
In gaol - - - - -	41
	3,229

Death Rates.

47. The average death-rate on the estates for the year (computed on the average between the initial and final numbers) was 20·5 per thousand. The rate varied on the different estates from as low as 5 per thousand in one case to as high as 37 and 38 per thousand in two other cases. One of the largest estates with an average of 700 coolies, had a death-rate of 10 per thousand, and

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this is perhaps about the lowest rate which it would be reasonable to hope for, except under occasional and, so to speak, fortuitous circumstances.

Desertions and Convictions.

48. There were 368 desertions from the estates in 1885, exclusive of 175 who were apprehended and brought back, and there were 818 convictions during the year for offences under the Ordinance.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

Immigration, 1884 *and* 1885.

49. The total number of Chinese immigrants in 1885 was 42,142, against 38,231 in 1884. Of the arrivals in 1885, 1,534 went on direct to other places, and the number that landed in the Settlement was 40,608, of whom 883 were women.

Unpaid Passages.

50. The number of those so landed whose passage money had not been paid, and who therefore came under the special provisions of the Chinese Immigrants Ordinance of 1880, was 17,034, against 15,181 in 1884.

Contracts to Labour.

51. Contracts to labour were entered into before officers of the Chinese Protectorate to the number of 19,749 in 1885, against 16,628 in 1884. The contracts in 1885 were for service as follows :—

Within the Settlement - - -	5,404
In the Native States - - -	2,241
In Dutch Colonies - - -	11,727
In other places - - - -	377
	19,749

Fees on Contracts.

52. The fee charged on these contracts is only 25 cents. It might, I think, be fairly raised to a dollar in the case of service within the Settlement and to two dollars for service without the Settlement. At these rates, the fees in 1885 would have amounted to about $34,000 instead of less than $5,000. The fee on contracts of Indian immigrants is one dollar, and there seems no reason why it should be lower in the case of Chinese who remain in the Colony, and the proposed extra charge for those who go to plantations in Sumatra and other places seems a legitimate method of obtaining from the foreign planters an equivalent for services from our Government Departments which they obtain at present almost gratuitously.

CROWN LANDS.

53. The following laws relating to Crown Lands have been recently enacted or are now in contemplation.

Crown Lands Ordinance, 1883.

I.—An Ordinance to prevent encroachments on Crown Lands (October 1883).

Boundaries Ordinance, 1884.

II.—An Ordinance to provide for the Demarcation of Land and for the Establishment and Maintenance of Boundary Marks (November 1884).

Crown Lands Ordinance, 1886.

III.—An Ordinance to regulate the Alienation and Occupation of Crown Lands (January 1886).

Land Revenue Collection Bill, 1886.

IV.—A Bill intituled an Ordinance for making better provision for the Collection of the Land Revenue of the Crown.

Procedure contemplated.

54. The procedure to facilitate which these law were framed may be described as follows:—

I.—To ascertain particulars, in respect of the entire soil of the three Settlements, of lands coming under the following exhaustive classification:—

(*a.*) Lands held under grants in fees simple.
(*b.*) Lands held under perpetual (999 year) leases.
(*c.*) Lands held under terminable leases, unexpired.
(*d.*) Lands held under terminable leases, expired.
(*e.*) Lands occupied under temporary permits or licences.
(*f.*) Lands occupied without authority.
(*g.*) Lands unoccupied and unclaimed.

II.— To demarcate, survey, and delineate on suitable maps all lands held under existing titles or to be held under titles which it may be intended to issue.

III.—To provide for the maintenance of boundary marks and the prevention of future encroachments and unauthorised occupation of Crown Lands.

IV.—To grant titles of a uniform character (but varying of course as to rates of rents, &c., according to the circumstances) for lands coming under the four last of the categories stated above.

V.—To provide for the collection of the Revenue and (in the last resort) for the sale of the land in cases of non-payment of rent

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Progress of Survey and Settlement.

55. The work has now been fairly commenced. A section of about two thousand acres in the south-west of the Island has been demarcated and provisionally mapped, and the investigation of claims and the preparation of titles is proceeding rapidly. Holdings to the number of over 700 have been practically settled. The rents that will be payable under the new titles will amount to nearly $1,100. The amount previously borne on the rent-roll being about one fifth of that amount. There seems reason to believe that the work will now go forward rapidly and with equally satisfactory results; and it is hoped that before the close of this year such an addition will be made to the rent-roll of the Settlement as may justify the cost of the process. The procedure in regard to settlement is greatly facilitated by an arrangement in which, instead of heavy charges for "premium" or "back rent," the tenant is given the option of paying a proportionately enhanced rent. This alternative is almost universally adopted. The peasant, as a rule, does not object to paying a fair rent, but a sum of money to be paid down is what he has not got, and to insist on any such payment would be to drive him into the hands of the money lender.

Statutory Titles. Periodical Revision of Rents. Proposed Restriction of Right of Mortgage.

56. The statutory titles that will be issued under the Ordinance of 1886 will give tenure in perpetuity, subject to a revision of the rent (on the unimproved value) every 30 years. This condition of tenure (under which the State will obtain a due proportion of the "unearned increment" in the value of its property) is one of which I have always been an advocate. Another condition which, I think, might advantageously be introduced into the titles would be one prohibiting all mortgages of the holdings unless with the concurrence of the Government. It appears to me worth while, in this way, at any rate to make the attempt to avert the process under which the inevitable money lender steps in and absorbs the margin between the benevolent rent conceded by the State and the severest rack-rent that the necessities of the peasant, combined with his attachment to his holding, can induce him to pay. The objection to the proposal, that the peasant will pay a higher rate of interest for an unsecured debt than he would for one incurred on mortgage, does not affect my view of the question. It is of small importance from my point of view that an individual cultivator should come rapidly to the end of his tether and have to fall back into the ranks of the labourers, but it is a very serious matter that the holdings should be encumbered and pass, when the end does come, from one debt-crippled tenant to another debt-crippled tenant.

FORESTS.

57. The recently printed report of the Superintendent of Forests has left little to be said in regard to the operations of his department. Some 6,000 acres of land on the crests of the hills in the Island have been marked off as Forest Reserves. This is satisfactory as far as it goes, but it may be questioned whether it goes far enough, and whether in the interest of future generations the clearing of the hill sides, where the declivity exceeds some very moderate degree, should not be altogether prevented, and the land that has already been cleared on precipitous slopes be re-afforested, before (by a process that seems the inevitable result of the conditions) the soil which it has taken untold ages to produce is washed down into the valleys, and the hill sides left in the condition of a pile of boulders.

SHIPPING AND TRADE.

Shipping.

58. The following statement shows the numbers and tonnage of the vessels that arrived at and left the port of Penang in 1884 and 1885 :—

	1884.		1885.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Arrivals.				
Steamers and square-rigged -	2,040	1,164,982	2,160	1,273,888
Native craft - - -	2,953	73,907	2,300	63,641
Total - -	4,993	1,238,889	4,460	1,337,529
Departures.				
Steamers and square-rigged -	2,036	1,159,776	2,154	1,269,622
Native craft - - -	3,342	84,954	2,766	71,598
Total - -	5,378	1,244,730	4,920	1,341,220

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Imports and Exports.

59. The following statement shows the values of the Imports and Exports in 1884 and 1885, and the quarters whence and whither the merchandise was imported and exported :—

	1884.		1885.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
United Kingdom - -	5,368,629	6,999,288	4,407,672	7,309,997
Other European countries -	754,620	2,388,916	713,283	4,260,370
British Burmah - -	3,079,669	1,700,226	3,958,700	1,371,195
British India - - -	2,977,675	2,034,786	3,245,616	1,922,277
Hongkong - - -	4,044,861	2,246,947	4,149,671	3,243,874
Other British Possessions -	89,421	409,889	82,351	153,497
Malayan peninsula, West -	3,968,213	4,699,373	4,222,741	4,229,671
Siam, West coast - -	2,714,169	2,934,557	2,865,871	2,438,582
Netherlands India - -	5,134,190	8,553,456	5,816,568	7,652,945
China - - - -	353,683	888,634	672,980	1,037,394
Other Asiatic countries -	468,567	60,018	676,628	190,997
United States - -	196,709	595,939	380,730	740,662
Singapore and Malacca -	2,194,864	2,489,312	1,976,650	1,386,122
Total - -	31,345,270	36,001,341	33,169,461	35,937,583

59*a*. The following shows the values of the Imports and Exports in 1884 and 1885 of a few of the principal articles :—

	1884.		1885.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
Grain and flour - -	3,543,375	2,768,279	3,960,916	2,649,488
Opium - - -	1,665,522	1,355,338	1,682,720	1,364,863
Chandoo - - -	1,400	368,235	—	155,865
Spices - - -	2,599,166	3,341,937	3,260,803	4,329,249
Sugar - - - -	61,808	1,488,867	54,000	1,054,671
*Tobacco and cigars - -	2,121,758	2,144,053	2,865,294	4,170,060
Tin - - - -	5,887,924	7,394,991	6,282,809	7,539,360

* There is an obvious error in the amount of the imports of tobacco for 1885, which no doubt were nearly equal to the exports. I believe the error has arisen from certain tobacco stored in hulks on its arrival from Sumatra not having been reported to the registrar, but it has only just caught my attention, and I have not had time to get the corrections made.

60. Taking the declared value of the chandoo to be 3½ times the value of the opium contained in it, it will be found that the value of the opium retained for consumption in the Settlement was in 1884 about $205,000, and in 1885 about $273,000. The amount for 1885 would represent (*see* paragraph 6) 455 chests of opium, which would give 455,000 taels of chandoo, of the value, at $2.20 per tael, of $1,010,000, and the difference, $737,000, between that amount and the value of the opium could represent the fund to provide for the farm rent, the farm expenses, and the farm profits. In view of these figures, it is not surprising that at the letting of the farm for 1886–8 the rent went up from $480,000 to $582,000 per annum.

CURRENCY.

Bank Imports of Specie.

61. The following statement has been compiled from returns of the imports of specie in 1885, with which the managers of the banks have been so good as to furnish me:—

Imports, 1885.	Mexican Dollars.	Spanish Pillar Dollars.	Japanese Yens.	Total.
Europe - - -	1,985,998	—	—	1,985,998
America - - -	313,983	-	—	313,983
China - - -	579,000	456,900	—	1,035,900
India - - -	—	2,242	—	2,242
Java - - -	—	57,300	—	57,300
Japan - - -	—	—	465,631	465,631
Singapore - -	217,000	16,286	—	233,286
Total -	3,095,981	532,728	465,631	4,094,340

Price of Mexican Dollars.

62. The control of the issue of dollars being practically in the hands of the Mexican Government, the price of the coins in the London market is said to be frequently very considerably in excess of their intrinsic value, and if facilities were given to the exporter to have silver coined into dollars at the Royal Mint (on payment of a seignorage to cover the cost of coining) there seems reason to believe that this course would be largely adopted, and

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that eventually the British dollar might altogether supersede the Mexican dollar, which, since the restrictions on the export of uncoined silver from Mexico were removed, appears to have owed the maintenance of its position to the absence of adequate competition.

Gold Leaf.

63. Gold leaf in bongkals of 832 grains, valued at $44 per bongkal, may be said to form part of the currency of the Settlement in respect of its external trade. Such gold leaf was imported by the mail steamers in 1885 to the value of $805,760.* A large proportion of the article is said to be exported to Sumatra, where it is believed to be hoarded to a large extent.

Bank Notes.

64. The bank note circulation of the three chartered banks in Penang at the close of 1885 amounted to $1,565,036. The certified amount of the specie reserve was $630,000. The duty on bank notes under Ordinance X. of 1885 is a composition of $\frac{1}{48}$ per cent. per month on the average value of the notes in circulation. I am myself disposed to be of the opinion that in a colony such as this the issue of bank notes should be in the hands of the Government, and that an issue of one-dollar notes should form part of the scheme.

POST OFFICE.

65. The following statements give the figures for 1884 and 1885 in regard to the Post Office business in the three branches, Post Office proper, Money Order Office, and Savings Bank :—

Post Office business.	1884.		1885.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters - - -	183,526	161,134	187,028	165,674
Newspapers - - -	89,032	52,828	91,881	54,227
Books, &c. - - -	12,768	5,395	13,828	6,231
Total - -	285,326	219,357	292,737	226,132

* The returns of the Import and Export Office give :—Imports, $637,533, and Exports, $36,356, but these are obviously imperfect.

Money Order business.	1884.		1885.	
	Issued.	Paid.	Issued.	Paid.
	$	$	$	$
Local - - - -	2,213	1,199	3,383	2,114
Native States - - -	218	6,083	283	6,188
India - - - -	11,518	425	17,607	568.
China, Ceylon, Australia -	899	46	2,175	275
United Kingdom - -	6,271	456	6,775	152
Total - -	21,119	8,209	30,223	9,297

Savings Bank.	1884.	1885.
	No.	No.
Accounts opened - - - -	99	104
Accounts closed - - - -	58	84
Accounts open at the end of the year -	142	162
	$	$
Deposited during the year - - -	10,709	18,989
Repaid during the year - - -	9,095	14,020
Interest credited to depositors - -	501	753
Balance due to depositors at the close of the year - - - - -	16,333	22,513

Proposal for Weekly Mail to Europe.

66. As the steamers of the *Messageries Maritimes* do not touch at Pénang, the Settlement has practicably only a fortnightly mail communication with Europe. The mails on the alternate weeks might be brought down in 26 days *viâ* Bombay and Calcutta, and in 25 days *viâ* Bombay and Negapatam, if arrangements could be made by which steamers on these lines would time their departures in connexion with the Bombay mail dates, and inquiries are now being made as to how far some such arrangement would be likely to be feasible.

Education.

67. The following statement gives particulars of the enrolment and attendance of the schools in 1884 and 1885 and of the

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"passes" obtained by the scholars at the Government examinations:—

Schools.	1884. No. of School.	1884. Average Enrolment.	1884. Average Attendance.	1884. Presented for Examination.	1884. Percentage of Passes.	1885. No. of School.	1885. Average Enrolment.	1885. Average Attendance.	1885. Presented for Examination.	1885. Percentage of Passes.
Free School	1	618	495	472	70	1	560	473	433	85
St. Xavier's Institution	1	231	194	159	89	1	240	206	173	95
Pulau Tikus Mission School	1	56	42	37	70	1	71	56	57	68
Government Branch School:— Charasta	1	182	162	78	95	1	198	172	110	97
Balik Pulau	—	—	—	—	—	1	19	16	—	—
Vernacular Schools (Malay):— P. W. Island	22	1,115	826	696	77	24	1,229	1,054	737	76
Pro. Wellesley	42	1,116	894	599	83	37	1,584	1,330	965	81
Tamil Mission School	1	32	24	19	83	1	41	30	20	88
Convent Girls' School	1	208	189	118	96	1	224	210	123	94
St. George's Girls' School	—	—	—	—	—	1	31	15	17	89
Vernacular Girls' Schools (Malay):— P. W. Island	2	46	41	—	—	4	82	74	—	—
Pro. Wellesley	—	—	—	—	—	4	70	59	—	—
Total	72	3,604	2,867	2,178	83	77	4,349	3,695	2,635	86

The "percentage of passes" is calculated from the numbers "presented for examination." In judging of the relative efficiency of the several schools, therefore, it is necessary to give an eye to the proportions between the numbers "presented" and the numbers of the "average enrolment."

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

SUPREME COURT.

Number of Sittings.

68. Reckoning as two days the days (34 in number) on which two judges were presiding in separate courts, the court sat in 1885:—

On the criminal side	110 days.
On the civil side	127 „
On the ecclesiastical side	26 „
	263 „

Numbers of Criminal Cases.

69. The criminal cases tried in 1884 and 1885 were as follows :—

—	Number of Prisoners.			
	1884.		1885.	
	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Acquitted.
Murder - - -	2	7	5	6
Murder, attempt - - -	1	1	4	2
Manslaughter - - -	6	—	7	10
Grievous hurt - - -	6	12	14	4
Other offences against the person -	25	10	41	15
Robbery with violence - -	18	12	31	11
Theft, housebreaking - -	55	21	51	25
Other offences against property -	3	4	17	4
Miscellaneous offences - -	8	11	12	12
Total - -	124	78	182	89
	202		271	

Numbers of Civil Cases.

70. The business on the civil, ecclesiastical, and bankruptcy sides of the court during the two years is stated in the following table :—

—	Civil Actions.						Probate and Administration.		Debtor Summonses and Bankruptcy Cases.	
	Pending.	Commenced.	Debt or Damages claimed.	Compromised, dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending.	No.	Amount.	Debtor Summonses.	Bankruptcy Cases.
			$					$		
1884 - - -	388	593	690,181	54	227	710	201	457,978	6	5
1885 - - -	710	634	440,727	68	268	1,002	203	358,112	3	3

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Arrears of Civil Business.

71. The above figures make it evident that the Court was unable during the two years to keep pace with the business that came before it. With the appointment of a fourth judge the difficulties may be found to disappear. Further relief to the block of business which the figures indicate might perhaps be given, if required, by an extension of the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the Court of Requests, which is limited at present to 50 dollars.

POLICE COURTS AND COURTS OF REQUESTS.

Number of Sittings.

72. The magistrates of police and Commissioners of the Court of Requests (four in number) held courts during 1885, as shown in the following statement:—

	Police Courts.	Courts of Requests.
Penang Island.	Days.	Days.
George Town	586	100
Balik Pulau	25	25
Relau	25	25
Province Wellesley.		
Butterworth	146	49
Penaga	48	48
Bukit Mertajam	49	48
Bukit Tambun	48	48
Nibong Tĕbal	40	40
Total	967	383

73. The following statements give particulars of the business done in the courts:—

Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts.	1884.				
	Committed for Trial.	Convicted or bound over.	Discharged.	Undecided.	Total.
Police Magistrate	136	6,783	3,967	93	10,979
Marine Magistrate	—	35	18	—	53
Magistrate, Province Wellesley	110	4,466	1,587	55	6,218
Total	246	11,284	5,572	148	17,250

(*continued.*)

Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts.	1885. Committed for Trial.	Convicted or bound over.	Discharged.	Undecided.	Total.
Police Magistrate - - -	194	7,138	4,161	122	11,615
Marine Magistrate - -	—	14	24	—	38
Magistrate, Province Wellesley	93	2,838	1,412	70	4,413
Total - - -	287	9,990	5,597	192	16,066

Courts of Requests, jurisdiction up to $50.	1884. No. of Cases.	1884. Amount of Debt or Damages.	1885. No. of Cases.	1885. Amount of Debt or Damages.
		$		$
Penang - - -	2,986	32,964	3,060	32,537
Province Wellesley -	1,014	13,393	886	9,710
Total -	4,000	46,357	3,946	42,247

Coroners.

74. Coroners' inquests to the number of 194 were held during the year. The following statement gives particulars of the verdicts :—

——	Penang.	Province Wellesley.	Total.
Homicide, culpable, amounting to murder	9	7	16
Do. culpable, not amounting to murder - - -	3	1	4
Do. through rash and negligent act - - -	1	—	1
Do. justifiable - - -	1	—	1
Do. by misadventure - -	—	1	1
Felo-de-se - - - - -	10	14	24
Self-destruction under temporary insanity - - - - -	5	3	8
Death in pursuance of judicial sentence -	1	—	1
Natural causes, accidental death, &c. -	103	35	138
Total - - -	133	61	194

POLICE.

Police Stations.

75. The following statement shows the numbers of police stations at present established:—

Prince of Wales' Island:—	
George Town and suburbs - -	12
North-east districts - - -	6
South-west districts - -	7
Province Wellesley:—	
Northern districts - -	13
Southern districts - -	9
	47

An additional station is being built this year at Sungei Atjeh in the Trans-Krian district, at the south of the Province, and additional stations are contemplated next year in the Island and Province, and one in the islet "Pulau Krah," where a considerable population has sprung up. Additional stations are particularly required in the Province, which has always been marked by more than its due proportion of serious crime, and where, from its position and configuration, escape across the frontier is so easy.

Police Force.

76. The police force below the rank of inspectors was provided in the Estimates for 1885 and 1886 as follows:—

	1885.	1886.
Europeans - - - -	28	28
Sikhs - - - - -	72	64
Malays and Klings - - - -	521	599
Total - - - -	621	691

The force at the close of 1885 was well up to the estimated strength for that year, except the Europeans, who were nearly fifty per cent. short of their complement.

Proportion of Homicide Cases brought before the Supreme Court.

77. A rough test of the efficiency of the Police in the detection of crime (or rather in the prosecution of criminals) is afforded by a comparison of the verdicts of homicide given at inquests and the records of cases of homicide brought before the Supreme Court.

The inquest returns for 1885 show that verdicts were given as follows:—

Murder - - - - -	16
Manslaughter - - - -	4
	20

The records of the Supreme Court for 1885 and 1886 show that verdicts were returned in respect of cases belonging to 1885 as follows:—

Murder - - - - -	4
Manslaughter - - - -	6
Not guilty (insanity) - - -	1
Acquittal - - - - -	4
Nolle prosequi - - - -	1
	16

It will be seen, therefore, that in four out of 20 cases of homicide that occured during the year no case at all came before the Supreme Court, and that in five other cases no conviction followed. This does not appear to be a satisfactory proportion, and it goes to show that the increases to the strength of the police force and to the number of the stations above referred to were not uncalled for. In cases of offences against property and other minor offences where the police would be less on their mettle, the proportion between offences and convictions would probably be found to be still more unfavourable.

Chinese Societies.

78. The following statement gives particulars of the Chinese Societies registered under the Ordinances XIX. of 1869 and V. of 1872:—

Names of Societies.	Total Numbers registered 1877–1885.	Registered in 1885.	Actual Subscribers (approximate), 1885.	Nationalities.
Toapeh Kong, *alias* Kien Tek - - -	14,285	1,631	2,000	Chiefly Hokkiens.
Ghee Hin - - -	41,273	5,509	4,000	Hokkiens, Techius, Cantonese, Khehs, Hailams.
Ho-Seng - - -	10,139	1,418	1,000	
Chhun Sim - -	2,359	23	600	Chiefly Hokkiens.
Hai San - - -	635	26	400	Chiefly Khehs.
Ghee Hok (suppressed) -	2,680	343	250	Chiefly Techius.
Total - -	71,371	8,950	8,250	

Efforts are now being made to get new and more accurate registers of the members of these societies, and it is hoped that this may be accomplished before the close of this year.

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79. The following paragraphs relating to the societies are reproduced from the report of the Protector of Chinese:—

"In Penang, several quarrels and fights have taken place between the Ho-Sengs and Ghee Hins, and the Ho-Sengs and Toapeh Kongs, but they have been generally nipped in the bud by the police.

"A branch of a Singapore Ghee Hok Society was established in Penang and Province Wellesley some 10 years ago, and has been a continual source of trouble, having no *raison d' être*, and being considered as an interloper by the older established societies. Having become a nuisance by its numerous quarrels and by the incompetency of its chiefs the Ghee Hok Society in Penang was suppressed in September.

"There is no doubt that in Penang and Province Wellesley the secret societies need being dealt with very firmly. The Ghee, Hin Society is very powerful, and possesses ample funds and large property; it and the Toapeh Kongs are backed by wealthy Chinese, and unless they are kept in order by a strong hand they may give much trouble. In any future complications or disturbance, deportation, judiciously applied, will have an excellent effect in keeping good order amongst the Chinese in Penang and the Province."

ILLEGAL GAMBLING.

Lotteries.

80. In October 1885 a memorial was addressed to the Governor by influential members of the Chinese community, calling the attention of the Government to the prevalence in the Settlement of a system of gambling known as "Wha Hoey." The system is described as a species of lottery, the chance being dependant on the drawing of one of the 37 "signs" used in the game. The holders of the corresponding tickets are said to receive only 30 times their stakes, so that the bank has seven points out of 37 in its favour, and besides is stated to have the advantage of not being liable to pay more than $1,000 on any one occasion, no matter how much money may have been staked on the winning "sign." Tickets for these lotteries are stated to be easily purchaseable by anyone, by women and children as well as by men, and it was to this feature of the evil that the memorialists more particularly drew attention.

Special Inquiry.

81. Towards the close of the year, an officer, Mr. G. C. Wray, who is acquainted with the Chinese language, was specially appointed to inquire into the matters referred to in the memorial, and into the general question of illegal gaming, and his reports are now before the Government, who have appointed a special Commission to inquire into the whole question.

Lotteries.

82. Mr. Wray found that, as regards the lotteries, the Chinese community were very willing to assist the Government in putting

them down, and he was successful in bringing a number of cases before the magistrate. The prisoners were convicted, and fines were imposed by the magistrate varying from $50 to $1,000. Appeals, however, were lodged on all the cases, and so far as they have been heard, the convictions have been quashed, and the business of the lotteries, I am told, is gradually resuming its former dimensions.

Common Gaming Houses.

83. As regards the ordinary gaming in common gaming houses, Mr. Wray received no such co-operation from the Chinese community as was afforded him in the case of the lotteries. Thirteen of such houses situated in Beach Street were found to be driving a roaring trade. By persistently watching these houses for a period that extended to nearly three months, the promoters of the gambling at last gave up the contest in despair, and so far as Beach Street is concerned, the plague appears to have been stamped out. That attempts will be made to revive it in other quarters of the town is, of course, to be expected, but no such strongholds as the Beach Street houses, with their straggling and inaccessible back premises, are to be found elsewhere, and I can seemyself no insurmountable difficulty in so harrying and hunting the offenders from place to place as to make their game no longer worth the candle. It is worth noting that at the close of the Chinese New Year, when gaming is generally most rife, it was reported to me, from a Chinese source, that there had been hardly any, "as the Government had put a stop to it."

PRISONS.

84. The following statement gives particulars of the committals and discharges, &c. of prisoners in 1884 and 1885 :—

Civil Prison.	1884.					
	Remaining.	Committed.	Discharged.	Transferred.	Died.	Executed.
Europeans and Eurasians -	—	2	—	2	—	—
Chinese - - -	21	1,052	973	78	—	—
Malays - - -	2	36	22	13	—	1
Klings - - -	7	48	35	11	—	1
Total - -	30	1,138	1,030	104	—	2
Criminal Prison.						
Europeans and Eurasians -	4	38	37	2	—	—
Chinese - - -	122	998	908	42	2	—
Malays - - -	28	206	178	11	—	—
Klings - - -	49	723	693	6	—	—
Total - -	203	1,965	1,816	61	2	—

(*continued.*)

Civil Prison.	1885.						
	Remaining.	Committed.	Discharged.	Transferred.	Died.	Executed.	Remaining.
Europeans and Eurasians -	—	16	15	—	—	—	1
Chinese - - -	22	1,383	1,276	93	2	2	32
Malays - - -	2	44	23	14	—	—	9
Klings - - -	8	58	21	39	1	—	5
Total - -	32	1,501	1,335	146	3	2	47
Criminal Prison.							
Europeans and Eurasians -	3	66	62	—	—	—	7
Chinese - - -	168	1,406	1,271	106	3	—	194
Malays - - -	45	239	216	23	1	—	44
Klings - - -	73	779	778	21	—	—	53
Total - -	289	2,490	2,327	150	4	—	298

Numbers Committed.

85. The numbers of prisoners committed to prison "for purposes of penal imprisonment" during the last 10 years, as shown by the Blue Book returns, have been as follows:—

1876 - - - - -	1,667
1877 - - - - -	2,181
1878 - - - - -	2,873
1879 - - - - -	2,542
1880 - - - - -	2,511
1881 - - - - -	1,717
1882 - - - - -	1,824
1883 - - - - -	1,782
1884 - - - - -	1,965
1885 - - - - -	2,490

Habitual Criminals.

86. The decline in the numbers for 1881 is probably attributable to the operation of "The prevention of Crimes Ordinance, 1880," and the greater attention paid to proving previous convic-

tions. Very few men who have once passed through lengthened periods of penal servitude find their way back to our prisons, and heavy sentences in the case of habitual offenders is, I believe, the most effectual way of dealing with the class. To make the procedure in this respect more uniform, I advocate a change in the law, by which any prisoner on his third or fourth committal might be brought before the Supreme Court, on the motion of the prison authorities, on the specific charge of being an "habitual offender," and being made liable, on proof of the convictions, to penal servitude not exceeding three years. The present process by which the previous convictions must be proved before the magistrate who is hearing the last case against the offender appears to me to be inconvenient and not uniformly effectual.

87. The committal in 1885 may be classified as follows in accordance with (1) the periods of the sentences, and (2) the numbers of previous convictions :—

Periods of Sentences.

Sentences :—	
Not exceeding six months - - -	2,306
Over six months to one year - -	65
Over one year to two years - -	51
Over two years - - - -	68
	2,490

Previous Convictions.

Convictions :—	
First - - - - -	1,992
Second - - - - -	250
Third - - - -	110
Fourth - - - - -	59
Fifth - - - - -	29
Sixth and over - - - -	50
	2,490

Prison Accommodation.

88. The number of "separate cells" in the three blocks of which the Criminal Prison is composed is 296, and the number of prisoners therefore at the end of 1885 was slightly in excess of the proper accommodation. But long-sentence prisoners (sentences exceeding six months) are sent as a rule to Singapore, and as there were 10 of such prisoners awaiting transfer on the 31st December, the accommodation may be considered as adequate at present. There is, however, very little margin, and a proposal for the construction of an additional block for a hundred prisoners is under consideration. Another suggestion is that a House of

PENANG. Correction should be established at some convenient place in Province Wellesley for estate coolies committed for "Desertion," "Neglect to labour," and similar offences. Of the prisoners committed in 1885, 530 were of this class, and there were 41 of such prisoners in the gaol on the 31st December.

Penal Labour.

89. No shot drill or other "penal" form of labour is enforced in the prison at present, but the bulk of the prisoners* are employed in stone breaking, which is believed to be as irksome a form of labour as can well be devised. They are engaged at this work for 9½ hours a day. The output of road metal (2 and 2½ inch gauges) is over 1,200 cubic yards per month. The "Crank" is about to be introduced for the punishment of Prison offences. Penal diet for short sentence prisoners (three days together twice a month) was re-introduced on the 1st February 1885, but discontinued again on the 1st July, on the occasion of beri-beri showing itself in the gaol.

ADMINISTRATION.

Resident Councillor's Duties.

90. The present system under which the Resident Councillor, in addition to his duties as the principal civil officer of the Settlement, is also charged with the office of President of the Municipal Board, is, in my opinion, an inconvenient one, and I have recommended that, as at Singapore, the duty should be transferred to the head of the Public Works Department. The Resident Councillor would also, I think, with great advantage be relieved of much of the routine work that at present occupies a large proportion of his time, by the appointment of an officer with duties corresponding to those of the Second Assistant Colonial Secretary at Singapore.

Duties of the Public Works Department.

91. The Public Works Department might, I think, conveniently be relieved of all duties connected with the survey. On the other hand, the Department might undertake the charge of the roads in

---

* The Native criminal prisoners at a recent date were employed as follows :—

Stone breaking	177
Sledging	15
Industrial	61
Duties and Fatigues	45
Unemployed	12
	310

Prince of Wales' Island (outside the town and suburbs of George Town), which are not, I think, satisfactorily managed, under the existing arrangement, by the Municipality.

District Officers.

92. An important experiment has recently been initiated by the appointment of a Resident District Officer at Balik Pulau, who acts as Magistrate, Commissioner of the Court of Requests, Coroner, and Collector of Land Revenue for the south-western portion of the Island, including the police districts of Bukit Penara, Sungei Pînang, Pulau Betong, Tĕluk Kumbar, Bayan Lĕpas and Relau. The advisability of extending the system by the establishment of a similar district officer at Bukit Mertâjam in Province Wellesley is now under consideration.

GENERAL.

Growth of the Settlement.

93. From every point of view, the record of the Settlement for the past year gives evidence of healthy and continuous growth; and this is confirmatory of what, I think, would be the impression conveyed by the general aspect of the country and the population to any one who should revisit the place after an absence of only a few years. To one whose first acquaintance with the Settlement dates back nearly 20 years, the progress seems marvellous, as will easily be imagined when it is stated that since 1868 (the first year after the transfer) the population of the Settlement has increased by 60 or 70 per cent.; the revenue by 270 per cent.; the trade by 286 per cent.; and the value of land and houses, as assessed by the Municipality, by 174 per cent.

C. J. IRVING,
Resident Councillor.

Resident Councillor's Office,
Penang, 11th May 1886.

MALACCA.

MALACCA.

No. 6.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT, MALACCA, 1885.

The revenue for 1885 was $290,950, against $288,186 for 1884, showing an increase of $2,764.

2. The chief items of increase are, stamps, $2,793, and reimbursements, $1,523. Of decrease, the main item occurs under land, viz., $3,303.

3. From the following table the revenue and expenditure for the last seven years may be compared :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1879	147,956	166,558
1880	181,948	178,052
1881	204,858	168,773
1882	191,869	224,372
1883	286,166	266,020
1884	288,186	323,489
1885	290,950	386,406

REVENUE DETAILED.

Land.

4. The revenue under this head, as noticed above, falls short of that for the preceding year by $3,303, being $63,469, against $66,556 in 1884.

5 This amount is about $5,000 below the average of the four preceding years, which is raised high by the abnormally large collection made in 1881 (due to premiums on large tapioca leases, to receipts on encroachment cases, and to an unusually good padi season).

6. But it will be seen that, were it not for tapioca failures, resulting in $4,259 being struck off the rent-roll, this high average would have been very nearly reached.

7. But if we take the average of the three preceding years, which affords a fairer standard for comparison, we shall find that the receipts are only $2,370 below it, and this is more than accou[illegible] preceding paragraph.

8. The details of land revenue for the four years ending with 1885 are as follows:—

——	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
	$	$	$	$
Premium - - -	646	2,393	1,948	1,136
Rents (current) - -	49,530	50,708	52,584	50,443
Do. (arrears) - -	3,257	4,733	1,812	2,100
Tenths, coral and granite - -	375	381	393	304
Do. tin - - -	350	794	345	316
Do. brick kilns - -	94	112	244	231
Do padi - - -	1,680	1,393	2,802	4,081
Do. wood-oil - -	498	520	496	626
Do. gambier - -	1,080	797	999	446
Do. tapioca - -	3,488	1,619	1,615	376
Do. fruit - -	480	719	999	1,454
Do. timber - -	2,029	1,709	1,683	1,362
Do. sand - -	507	768	598	493
Fees for registration - -	167	121	31	96
Total - -	*64,190	66,772	66,556	63,469

* The figures will not be found to add up to the totals given, as the cents under each item of revenue are left out for greater convenience, and the cents are left out in the totals likewise.

9. Premium, as will be seen, has not reached so low a figure since 1882. What has been collected under this head during the past year is due chiefly to the issue of long leases for small areas, none having been obtained for large leases, owing to the delay which occurred in settling the terms on which land should be granted for pepper and gambier planting; there has likewise been delay in the settlement of a few other outstanding applications for large areas, some owing to survey difficulties, while one must remain undealt with, pending the decision of the Wan Chilek question.

10. It is, and must remain, impossible to estimate accurately the amount that will be received under the head of rents until the arrears have been finally dealt with, and this cannot be done without survey, as the Land Office cannot find many of the lands on which arrears are due, and until they are identified it is impossible to say whether the arrears are recoverable or should be written off.

11. The amount received under the heading of rents is, in round numbers, $1,853 only less than that of the preceding year, in spite of the loss already noticed of $4,259 struck off the rent-roll on account of failures in tapioca.

12. I anticipate a continuous increase in the rent-roll year by year.

13. This anticipation, I should clearly state, is founded upon the desire and the expectation that tapioca will continue to be the mainstay of the land revenue, but while I say this, I would not have it thought that I look to this industry alone for land revenue; on the contrary, I look for a large increase of revenue

MALACCA.

from the adoption of higher rates in the case of small leases, and of assessment throughout the country where leases are not taken out, and last, but not least, to some reasonable land rates, whatever form they may take, from all town lands.

14. I have made this reference to the tapioca industry because it has been sought to have it laid down that it is an industry which must be suppressed, owing to its destructive effects upon the forests of the Settlement, effects which are not sufficiently compensated for by the premium and the rent for the 10 or 12 years during which the land produces any return, when it is remembered that the land must lie fallow from 15 to 25 years before it will be worth clearing again for cultivation, and probably 50 years before it approaches the condition in which it was before being cleared for the first tapioca planting.

[I believe a great deal of jungle is called "primary," which is nothing of the kind, but is merely older than its neighbours, having been cleared in all probability a couple of generations before, either by Malays or aboriginals for "padi hûma" (high land padi).]

15. As to this I may say first, that the Government are bound, and have recognised the obligation to provide the present manufacturers with such additional land from time to time as may be required to give employment to their machinery, while no land will be given to persons desiring to start fresh enterprises in tapioca.

16. In due time, of course, the existing machinery will be worn out, and if the rule which is at present considered to be in force be retained, the tapioca industry will in no long time die out in Malacca, causing a severe loss of revenue, *i.e.*, about four fifths of the receipts under the head of "Rents."

17. By way of consolation for the loss indicated, Malacca will probably have the pleasure of seeing her neighbours adopting the lost industry with satisfactory results.

18. By the time this happened, the land revenue would probably have made good about half the loss from the sources indicated in paragraph 13, but I am unable to see why even such an amount of revenue, probably from $20,000 to $25,000, should be sacrificed on the grounds of the arguments adduced in paragraph 14. It may be a question, having regard to these arguments, whether we get quite so much as we ought to do for the land that is planted with tapioca for so short a period, perhaps we might get a little more, but as between getting what we do and getting nothing there cannot be a moment's doubt; the financial point decides that at once.

19. Nor can the injury to the forests be regarded as in any measure weighing in the other direction. We are keeping large forest reserves in different parts of the Settlement, and it is understood in the Land Office that no hills of any dimensions are to be included in leases, while the cleared lands could be kept going in rotation; parts already cleared and abandoned will be growing up again while fresh land is being cultivated.

20. While on this subject, I may repeat the observations I made in my last report, on the facilities offered by Malacca for coffee, fibre, Assam tea, and other forms of cultivation.

21. The tenths on padi reached a larger amount than has been done since 1881—the first mark of recovery from the cattle epidemic, which had such fatal effect in the years 1882, 1883, and 1884—the average receipts from padi being, for that period, only $1,958 per annum, while for the three years ending 1881 it was $5,389, so that it should be expected in proper years to reach $5,500 certainly.

22. (*a.*) The general outcome of the careful valuation of padi, which has been carried out since my last report, is to show, as was anticipated, that the tenths have been considerably under-estimated.

(*b.*) Extended measurements on the same basis will, I hope, lay the foundation for a complete system of assessment to accompany registration of holdings.

(*c.*) It has been objected that, to substitute assessment for the tenths as a mode of payment is to deprive the occupiers of an ancient privilege, viz., that of paying in kind. This objection is, I think, little more than a sentimental one, it having been long the practice to pay in money, and not in kind, and the substitution of a fixed payment, instead of one that fluctuates from year to year, will certainly be economical to Government, and will, it may be hoped, have some effect towards inducing the Malay kawâsan-holder (who will continue to retain his holding, on exactly the same terms as before, saving the exception under discussion) to set a little more store by his "kawâsan," and take a little more trouble with its cultivation.

23. There is no reason for dissatisfaction at the fall in the receipt of tenths from gambier and tapioca, as it marks the gradual cessation of an unsatisfactory mode of cultivation.

24. The receipts from fruit were the largest for the last seven years at all events. I attribute it to increased imports from Johol by the new road, as well as to an unsually good season.

25. The further fall in the receipts from timber is accounted for by the reduction in the charges for passes, a good deal being now given free that used to be charged for, and no large cases having been compromised during the year.

26. Tin for years past has dwindled to almost nothing as a source of revenue, the average of the six years ending 1884 being about $800, while the receipts of last year were only $316.

27. Now, I believe that this state of things is not to be accounted for by the exhaustion of the tin beds of Malacca, the report of the Rev. Father Tenison-Woods forbids such an idea; the miners have been drawn away by the mines of the Protected States of the Peninsula.

28. But the Rev. Father Tenison-Woods was unable to make the detailed inspection which is greatly required in the interests of the Settlement.

29. What is wanted, and is well worth paying for, is a geologico-mineralogical survey and report, not dealing with this only, but upon the general mineral resources of Malacca. I press this because I have ascertained, partly from my own observation, partly from information obtained, that the rocks of Malacca are of a much more varied character than seem to be generally supposed. Besides the wide-spread occurrence of tin, of the lateritic clays and rocks, and granite, there is sandstone and quartz, and a run of some miles of rocks containing some proportion of plumbago, while in another direction there seems reason to suspect the existence of coal, and in a third that of lime, as manifested by the petrifying action of the water of a certain stream.

30. I urge, therefore, that it is worth while to get out a thoroughly competent scientific man from England to perform this survey, and to pay him $6,000, *i.e.*, 1,000*l.* for the work, or such further sum as may be necessary.

31. On the conclusion of his work in Malacca, his services might, no doubt, be utilised with advantage in the Natives States, which will by that time probably be able to pay for them.

Licenses.

32. The revenue under this head is, in accordance with the farm contracts, the same as the two preceding years, viz.:—

	$
Opium - - - -	153,600
Spirits - - - -	34,200
Pawnbroker - - - -	3,960
	$191,760

Stamp Revenue.

33. A satisfactory increase of revenue appears under this head, more than I should have anticipated a little time back, but it is in a large measure due doubtless to the fees payable on the arrears of accounts, now at last being filed in the Registry. The figures below show the extent of the increase:—

—	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Commercial -	4,888	5,450	5,800	5,714	6,223	6,719
Judicial -	6,748	5,568	6,434	5,826	6,179	8,477
Total -	11,636	11,018	12,234	11,540	12,402	15,196

viz., $2,794.

Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Courts.

34. The following are the figures under this head for the last six years:—

——	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Land cases - -	1,293	1,166	895	822	274	277
Fines in other cases and fees - -	4,071	4,729	3,308	2,995	2,484	2,192
Total -	5,364	5,895	4,203	3,817	2,758	2,469

35. There is no perceptible recovery under the first item, and having regard to the activity shown by the Land Office during the past few years, it was hardly to be expected, so that there is little cause for dissatisfaction.

36. The fluctuating nature of the sources of the second item renders it unnecessary to enlarge upon the causes which have led to a further fall in the receipts.

Reimbursements.

37. The different items which supply the revenue under this head are given below for the last six years

——	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Survey fees - -	4,128	3,390	221	1,337	1,054	583
Municipal contribution	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,780	3,780
Other items - -	512	1,007	910	939	3,455	5,449
Total - -	8,240	7,997	4,731	5,876	8,289	9,812

38. To the small amount of the first of the foregoing items the remarks made regarding premium in paragraph 9 are likewise applicable. I anticipate, however, some improvement in this respect during the current year, and a further improvement latter on.

39. The chief of the other items is the contribution from school fees. The Rĕmbau share in the maintenance of ex-Pĕnghûlu, viz., $7 20, also forms one of them.

Other Items of Revenue.

40. These items, viz., rents, exclusive of land, port and harbour dues, postage, fees of office, sale of Government property, miscellaneous, and special, continue to show a satisfactory increase as under:—

	$
1880 - - - -	4,165
1881 - - - -	5,679
1882 - - - -	4,767
1883 - - - -	6,364
1884 - - - -	6,373
1885 - - - -	8,243

41. Of the above, port and harbour dues, and postage, may be taken out as showing a progressive increase, that in the former showing one of the advantages which has resulted from the appointment of a harbour master, while that of the latter testifies to increasing business.

The following are the figures:—

——	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
	$	$	$	$
Port and harbour dues -	942	980	1,284	1,485
Postage - - -	1,211	1,778	1,855	2,163

Expenditure Detailed.

42. From the comparative table annexed may be gathered the cost of establishments and the chief heads of expenditure for the past five years:—

——	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
	$	$	$	$	$
Establishments -	80,666	85,403	92,460	99,551	106,887
Pensions - -	8,215	8,928	7,956	8,391	8,639
Education -	11,187	12,206	14,210	18,731	25,048
Transport - -	7,359	8,279	9,870	11,118	11,406
Works and buildings - -	12,085	42,222	62,809	52,371	66,013
Roads, streets, and bridges - -	22,259	43,953	47,772	64,885	84,485
Total -	141,771	200,991	235,077	255,047	302,478

Works and Buildings.

43. The police barracks at Dûrian Tunggal, Sĕlandar, Alor Gâjah, and Sungei Udang, were rebuilt in a permanent manner, and a new station, barracks, and out-building replaced the old one at Lûbok Chîna, the most westerly station in the Rĕmbau frontier, including a room for the accommodation of Government officers and others travelling; as there is now direct communication thence by road through Rĕmbau with Sungei Ujong, this will no doubt be found convenient by through travellers, who may prefer going overland to the sea passage.

44. Detached cook-houses have been constructed at 14 different stations.

45. Special repairs, being found necessary were made in the roof of the Stadt-house.

46. A verandah was added to the office buildings at the Dûrian Dâun Hospital, the surface drainage was completed, and the lock-up ward and a laundry were erected within the Hospital grounds.

47. A new small-pox hospital and dresser's quarters were built at Hûjong Pasir, behind the gaol.

48. The Government rebuilt the Portuguese Mission School at Tranquerah.

49. Vernacular schools, of a semi-permanent class, and temporary teachers' quarters, were erected in 18 different districts, and temporary teachers' quarters were added to 13 existing schools.

50. A wrought-iron flagstaff was substituted for the old one on St. Paul's Hill, a much needed improvement; the old one was on its last legs, and the yard to which the symbols are attached was much too low.

51. Telephone communication was established as far as the frontier at Lûbok Chîna, *viâ* Pulau Sĕbang, a considerable convenience, as long as the instruments are in working order, but there is found considerable difficulty in maintaining this desirable condition of things.

52. The town and country rest-houses, at bungalows and at police stations, have been properly furnished, and supplied with crockery and cutlery.

53. The esplanade and public grounds generally have been improved and kept in good order.

54. Special services were executed at the light-houses, including a boat-house at Pulau Undan, and an extra iron ladder at the Screw Pile lighthouse on the North Sands.

55. The new iron pier was begun in the latter part of the year.

56. Some small expenditure was incurred, of a preliminary character, with a view to ascertain the best site for the waterworks for this Settlement. Some 13 different sites have been examined and reported on, and I am now in hopes that a really satisfactory site has been discovered near Mâchap, about

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17 miles from town, which promises an ample supply of water of excellent quality.

57. The demarcation of the Malacca frontier would have been completed, but for a difference which has arisen with the Johor authorities regarding the line to be fixed in the neighbourhood of Mount Ophir, a difference the settlement of which has been greatly delayed, owing to the prolonged absence of the Sultan of that state and territory.

Roads, Streets, and Bridges.

58. The second class road from Ayer Bemban, on the Ayer Pânas road to Jasin, which had become practically impassable, was metalled throughout and is now in first class condition.

59. A road about a mile in length was opened from Sempang (on the Merlimau road) to the sea, for the convenience of the inhabitants, as there are good lands there, and there is a considerable population.

60. Two miles of roadway, between the 15th and 18th miles in the Sungei Rambei Road, were metalled, the work being found to be more needed there than between the 12th and 15th miles, where it was originally proposed to do it.

61. A mile of road between Batang Tiga (on the Tanjong Kling highway) and Bukit Rambei (towards the Měntra mission at Ayer Salak) was raised and metalled.

62. A new road, about 9¼ miles long, from Sungei Bharu to Lûbok Chîna, was traced and opened in a second class condition, and will be metalled and ready for traffic by the middle of the year. This road, which has very easy gradients all the way, unlike the vast majority of the old Malacca roads, where they run through hilly country, offers the additional advantage over the old route to Lûbok Chîna, *viâ* Naning, that it reduces the distance by about 5 miles, and will thus be the high road from Malacca to Sungei Ujong.

63. Under the vote "Frontier roads," 4½ miles of road from Jâsin towards Châban were constructed, 2 miles of road were metalled between Chêrâna Pûtih and Jêrat Gunjei (the boundary point on the Rembau frontier beyond Naning), 4½ miles between Pulau Sĕbang and Kwâla Sungga were re-formed, and half a mile of the road from Bâtang Malâka Hîlir to Bâtang Malâka police station was metalled.

64. Under the vote "Raising and metalling where most required," a mile of road from Bâtang Tîga to Lereh on the Tanjong Kling road was metalled, and similar work has been carried out on a smaller scale in other parts of the Settlement.

65. Thirty-three (33) timber bridges of 6-feet and 10-feet span have been reconstructed, and five other bridges have been repaired.

66. Rivers and canals have been cleared under the vote for "Drainage of Rivers, &c.," and in districts where the lands are held under the customary tenure the labour of the "anak buah"

has been utilised in carrying out this work, they and their Pĕnghûlu being given a small present on its completion.

67. Besides the above a masonry dam at Malâka Pindah and sluice gates at Punggor, Kĕsang Tûha, and Pulau Gâdong were constructed to secure the irrigation of the neighbouring padi lands.

68. The up-keep of cooly stations has been attended to.

69. Under the vote "Improvements to gradients and traces of roads," two very satisfactory deviations were carried out at Alor Gâjah and Palau Sĕbang, thus doing away with two tremendous hills, which caused great wear and tear to cattle and horse flesh and vehicles of all kinds. The gradients of other roads have also been reduced as opportunity offered.

70. The mileage of roads kept up under the departmental system has been 223½ miles, of which 169½ is first class, and the continued satisfactory working of this system is due to the careful supervision of the Acting Superintendent of Works and Surveys, Mr. R. V. Boswell, whose energy and ability in the conduct of all the responsible work which he has been called upon to do I take this opportunity of bringing to notice.

Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.

71. The ensuing figures show the municipal revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1881	25,054	18,899
1882	25,444	30,107
1883	27,188	26,465
1884	28,818	26,481
1885	29,425	27,150

The above figures, on the revenue side, include the balance left over from the preceding year.

72. From these it will be seen that there has been a recovery in the past year in the items of house assessment, cart taxes, and licenses on certain trades:—

(*a.*) The first item may be expected to show a further increase in the future, as a better class of house is being built now by all who rebuild, and attention is given to secure compliance with the requirements of the law in respect of house building If the reclamation at Kampong Blanda can be carried out, as I hope it may be at no distant date, every possible argument being in its favour, whether it be done by the expenditure of the public funds, or on borrowed money, a very material addition to this item of the municipal

revenues may be confidently looked for, to say nothing of the revenue which would be reaped directly by the Government.

(*b.*) The second item fluctuates according to the state of the tapioca industry; that at least has hitherto been the tendency, but this should cease when the enterprise of Chinese capitalists is directed to more than one form of cultivation, and I hope I am not mistaken in thinking that there is already some such tendency observable.

73. The Commissioners give their careful attention to the sanitation of the town, and this work has been much facilitated by the execution of the drainage scheme, which is due to my predecessor drawing attention to the urgent need for it, but owing to the difficulties raised at home, not, I am bound to say, by the Colonial Government, the extent of the scheme had to be greatly reduced, a good deal beyond what, in the opinion of the Board, it should have been, having regard to the actual requirements of the town; and a further scheme has been prepared for submission to the Government showing what is still needed to meet these requirements, and it is earnestly hoped that the needful funds may be advanced to the Board on the easiest possible terms, bearing in mind the smallness of their present means.

74. There are likewise two or three improvements of an important character needed in and about the town, for the public convenience, which cannot fail to result in an improvement to the Government, as well as the municipal revenues, and the execution of which it is unadvisable to postpone, owing to the enhanced cost which delay will cause, through the rise in value of property, consequent on the progress of the Settlement, which may be expected to ensue on the development of the Native States, as well as in the ordinary course of things. A scheme and estimates for these improvements will likewise be submitted to Government with an application for the needful funds to carry it out.

75. It is perhaps somewhat unusual to refer to points like these in an annual report on the year just expired, but I wished, while remarking on the present meagre financial condition and therefore limited powers of the Board for good, to point out a means by which their revenue prospects may be improved.

76. The roads have been further improved and their up-keep attended to, and certain small improvements have been carried out in the streets out of the current revenue, as opportunity offered, and while mentioning this, I should not omit to record the readiness and the liberal spirit displayed in such matters by the Chinese residents at the instance of Mr. Chan Tek Chiang, a justice of the peace and member of the Board.

77. An attempt has been made to carry out the lighting of the town on a more regular system than heretofore, and I trust that this will be continued annually, until the whole town is respectably lighted.

78. The burial question was considered, and byelaws, which have since received the approval of Government, were drafted,

with a view to restrict the indiscriminate fashion of burying which has, till lately, been allowed to prevail amongst all races of the native community.

79. It is to be regretted that there is so much difficulty found in inducing the leading native residents to take seats on the Board, and had not Mr. Tek Chiang at last consented to join the Board, I should have had to consider whether it would not be advisable to suggest the abolition of the Board in this Settlement, and the division of its work between the Public Works Department and the Land Office.

LAND.

80. The leases on the rent roll for 1884 and 1885 respectively, are stated in the following table :—

—	Number.		Area.		Annual Rent.	
	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.
1-year leases -	—	3**	—	2	—	$ 2
5 „ „ -	124*	117	480	444	140	130
10 „ „ -	376†	361	89,612	88,621	52,023	50,864
15 „ „ -	7‡	3	15	9	6	4
20 „ „ -	3,195§	3,164	12,515	11,903	3,865	3,705
99 „ „ -	138‖	137	319	318	223	222
999 „ „ -	239¶	371	2,591	3,120	850	1,210
Certificate of tenure	91	91	312	312	110	110
Licenses to clear -	—	128††	—	542	—	185

* Seven cancelled in 1885.
† Twenty-four cancelled and ten issued in 1885.
‡ Four cancelled in 1885.
§ Thirty-one cancelled in 1885.
‖ One cancelled in 1885.
¶ Three cancelled and 135 issued in 1885.
** One issued in 1885.
†† Ninety-one issued in 1885.

81. The temporary form of title issued under the name of "Clearing License," to enable applicants for land to start operations without waiting for survey, is a great convenience to them; the land is measured by a Forest Ranger, and boundary stones are put up, the Survey Office then take a note of it, and the land is surveyed as opportunity offers.

82. The expired leases for 1884 and 1885 stand as given below :—

Expired Leases borne on rent roll.	Number.		Area.		Rent.	
	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.
1-year leases -	—	2	—	1	— $	1 $
5 „ „ -	124	117	480	444	140	130
10 „ „ -	117	112	9,501	6,907	3,249	2,208
15 „ „ -	7	3	15	9	6	4
20 „ „ -	955	1,348	3,533	5,258	1,301	1,732

83. The sooner these are dealt with the better for the revenue, as they were mostly issued at a very low rent, which can easily be trebled on renewal of the title, without in any degree approaching a rackrent, which I am very far from wishing to see adopted.

84. The suggestion to treble rents in the interest of the revenue may perhaps draw down hostile criticism, which may overlook the explanation accompanying it, and in order, as far as may be, to disarm such criticism, I would add one or two further observations.

85. When any measure is proposed with a view to increase the revenue, or which has that amongst other objects in view, it is common to taunt the Government with thinking of nothing but how to increase the revenue, whether needful or not; granting it possible that a case might occur in which the taunt would be justifiable, I must say that it is likely to be some time before the opportunity will occur in respect of the Malacca revenue, the meagreness of which has long been justly matter of reproach.

86. But the belief which has always accompanied the reproach that no good thing, in the shape of revenue, could come out of Malacca is erroneous, and must be attributed to the neglect from which Malacca has so long suffered, and which has perhaps been perpetuated by the belief which it has done so much to create.

87. The rents which have been described as very low, and which it is proposed should be trebled, were not perhaps *much* too low, considering the time when the titles were issued, and the then state of agriculture in the Settlement, but no one having any knowledge of the circumstances could pretend to maintain that they should not now be raised on renewal of the title; the only point, then, for consideration is the extent to which they should be raised, and I am prepared to repeat that to treble them will not, in any degree, have an oppressive effect, in fact, they will then still be considerably below the rents asked by private landlords for the same class of lands and cultivation.

88. If fair and reasonable rents only are obtained, Malacca should produce a very fine land revenue, and I hope to see this demonstrated within three years from the present time.

89. The titles issued during the past five years will be found in the table hereunder:—

	1881.		1882.		1883.		1884.		1885.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
1-year leases -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
10 „ „ -	20	13,576	5	4,534	4	572	—	—	10	11,872
20 „ „ -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
99 „ „ -	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
999 „ „ -	13	246	7	165	3	140	35	491	135	531
Certificates -	—	—	17	85	14	54	1	3	—	—
Clearing licenses -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	91	123
Total -	37	13,828	29	4,784	21	766	36	494	237	12,527

Forest Department.

90. Demarcation of the forest reserves formed the chief work of the year, and about 10,000 acres were demarcated in the following reserves, viz., Sungei Ûdang, Mĕrlîmau, part of Bukit Brûang, and part of Bukit Panchur.

91. The length of boundary line opened, 8 feet wide, was 22 miles, about one third being done by contract, and the rest by the overseer of the department.

92. The total area taken over for reserve purposes was about 42,000 acres, of which 27,000 have yet to be surveyed.

93. Additions were made to the old reserves as follow:—Mĕrlîmau, 4,000 acres; Sungei Ûdang, 1,300; Bukit Brûang, 23 (bought for $260); and Bukit Panchur, 2,880.

94. The Bukit Panchur Reserve has been rather changed than added to, the hill range of that name having been taken in, while a portion of the old was excluded. This will protect the sources of several streams.

95. All the additions to the reserves are, the Superintendent, from whose report the substance of these remarks is taken, states, fairly well wooded.

96. Quarters for forest watchmen have been erected during the year at Brîsu, Mĕrlîmau, and Bukit Panchur.

97. Seven watchmen have been taken on since June, and have had 11,200 acres to look after, an average of 1,600 acres a-piece, in addition to keeping the boundary paths open, and the Superintendent states that they have kept up with the work.

98. On the small experimental nursery at Bukit Brûang, the Superintendent reports as follows:—"Of the plants tried during "the year, viz., bassia longifolia, pinus longifolia, cedrela toona, "teak, ceara rubber, Panama rubber, mahogany log-wood, Mau-"ritius hemp, China grass, and coffee (not stated which variety), "and others, the cedrela, bassia, and hemp have grown well. "Teak has done well on spots containing good soil, some of the "others have done particularly well, except the native kinds. "Mauritius hemp has done well, and some Chinese are about to "take up its cultivation."

99. This last remark refers to Mr. Tan Hun Guan, perhaps the most enterprising of the Chinese planters, who is trying Liberian coffee also, and has reared some very fine trees.

100. The Superintendent further reports that "about 10,000 "plants were propagated during the year, among which were "tĕmpînes and other indigenous trees, but as these are but little "required for planting in Malacca, they will be transported for "the benefit of the other Settlements less fortunate in this "respect.

101. On this, while not of course offering any objection to the transport of tĕmpînes plants to the other Settlements, I would remark that I believe this tree to be not widely scattered throughout Malacca, and that I think the different reserves, where it is not found, should be planted with it, and it will probably in

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time prove useful to the Public Works Department, when it is to be found conveniently near the scene of their labours, and will be gladly made use of by the Natives for mosques and the better class of houses.

102. The nursery at Ayĕr Panas was given up during the year, owing to the inconvenience and cost in looking after it at such a distance from town.

103. The Bukit Brûang Nursery will also be given up as soon as a competent forest officer is placed in charge of the Malacca branch of the Department, and a new one will be started at Bukit Sabôkor, only 3 miles from town, which I selected some time ago, and the soil of which the Superintendent considers superior for the purpose to that of Bukit Brûang, and it will be advisable that the quarters of this officer should be erected here, instead of at Bukit Brûang, as originally proposed.

104. Three hundred (300) lbs. of selected seeds, and 1,840 herbarium specimens, have been forwarded to Singapore.

105. Nearly 100 specimens of fibres, roughly prepared from plants growing in Malacca, and 86 specimens of timber have been sent to the Colonial Exhibition to be held in London this year.

106. Mr. Jackson, the overseer, who was two years in charge of the Department, resigned towards the close of the year, and application has been made to the authorities at home for the services of a competent officer, without which it is impossible to utilise this Department to much advantage.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

107. The following figures give the value of Imports and Exports for the past seven years :—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$
1879	2,718,343	2,770,123
1880	3,317,848	3,634,640
1881	3,664,230	3,919,431
1882	4,082,136	4,074,041
1883	4,046,122	3,988,503
1884	2,964,937	3,060,803
1885	2,898,345	3,147,401

108. The decrease in imports is chiefly in padi and rice, which may be attributed to the continued depression in tapioca during the first part of the year, and in some measure perhaps to the much larger local supply owing to a better harvest.

109. The chief item of increase in the exports was tapioca, the price of which improved in the latter part of the year.

110. There was also a considerable increase in fruit, due to the unusually favourable season.

111. Specie continued to show signs of depression.

Arrivals and Departures

112. The tonnage of arrivals in 1884 and 1885 was 181,074 and 155,268 respectively, and of departures 182,439 and 155,380, the falling off being due to withdrawal of the British India line of steamers, which only affected part of 1884.

113. The number of native craft which cleared the port in 1885 was 1,450, with a tonnage of 33,982, showing an increase over 1884 of 302 vessels, with a tonnage of 4,247.

114. Two of the beacons in Pulau Panjang were replaced with iron poles and cages on masonry foundations.

POSTAL.

115. The figures hereunder show a continued increase in the business of the Department:—

Number of Letters.

	1883.	1884.	1885.
Received - - - -	64,918	74,555	80,834
Despatched - - - -	49,276	56,257	62,331

Registered Articles.

	1883.	1884.	1885.
Received - - - -	1,449	1,844	2,023
Despatched - - - -	1,172	2,186	2,465

Money Orders.

	Issued.		Paid.	
	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.
	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom - - -	532	649	—	—
Local - - - -	1,621	1,356	559	660
Native States - - -	400	378	1,713	2,987
India - - - -	1,802	2,353	—	33
Ceylon - - - -	273	401	—	—
China - - - -	41	179	18	—
Local Postal Orders - -	—	370	—	229
British Postal Orders - -	—	220	—	—

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116. The falling off in the Local Money Orders (issued) is accounted for by the introduction of the "Local Postal Orders."

117. A pillar box post was placed at Tranquerah in September, and the collections continued to increase up to the end of the year.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

118. The following figures show the number of prisoners brought before the magistrate during the past year, and how they were dealt with :—

Committed to Supreme Court - -	39
Convicted - - - - -	994
Ordered to give security - - -	39
Discharged - - - -	884
Not decided - - - -	24
	1,980

119. The total is the smallest during the past seven years, but the number committed for trial before the Supreme Court, viz., 39, was only equalled in 1882, when it was the same.

120. The proportion of the convicted to the discharged is nearly the same as it was last year.

121. *Supreme Court.—Criminal Cases.*

	1884.	1885.
Number of Cases - - - -	19	39
Convictions - - - -	9	21
Acquittals - - - - -	5	15
Nolle prosequi - - - -	5	3

122. Of the above one was a case of culpable homicide, which was punished with rigorous imprisonment.

Civil Cases.

123. The ensuing figures give the civil cases for the past two years :—

Number of Cases heard.		Damages involved.		Settled.		Judgment for Defendant.		Damages for Plaintiff.	
1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.
132	194	$ 84,507	$ 58,553	33	78	11	15	$ 48,185	$ 15,849

124. There were no bankruptcy cases.

125. The probate and administration cases numbered 116, involving property to the value of $101,102, against 111 and $36,125 for the previous year.

Police.

126. The force is well reported of on the whole, but the Acting Superintendent in his report draws attention to the impractibility of retaining a good class of men in it, when they can go and get 50 per cent. higher wages outside for easier work. This is so obvious that I hope no long time will elapse before the pay is raised $1 a month all round, so that the minimum shall be $8 a month in Malacca, as it is in Singapore, which is a cheaper place.

127. There were five cases of theft amongst the Malay and Kling contingent, all of which resulted in conviction, imprisonment, and dismissal from the force.

128. The Sikh contingent should, I think, be increased from 25 to 32. I understood this was to have been carried out, but it has not been so far.

129. I do not think that the Settlement is well enough policed; the proportion should at least be one constable to every two square miles of country; if this were maintained the force should number about 350, instead of 290, including the Sikhs.

130. Five miles is quite long enough a distance to separate two stations, and should not be exceeded.

131. A station is much needed at Sempang Ampat, Naning (on the highway to Rĕmbau), where there is a small village; the neighbourhood is not a very good one, and it is five miles from any station. I consider this pressing, and have therefore made provision for it in the Estimates for 1887.

132. This has been a bad year for murders, seven having been committed.

133. The first was a case in which there was some doubt whether it was not an accident; the jury gave the prisoner the benefit of that doubt.

134. The second was the case of a Chinaman, who died of shot wounds inflicted by Malays, who thus put a stop to a burglarious expedition, in which he and another were engaged. Two Malays were put on their trial on the information of the other Chinaman, who also bore shot marks, but they were discharged

135. In the third, a Malay stabbed another fatally in the heat of a quarrel; he was brought to trial and sentenced to death.

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136. The fourth case is rather a difficult one to form any opinion about, two Malays, friends, went out shooting together, and one returned without the other, and disappeared after visiting his house. His friend was found dead in the jungle the day after, the gun of deceased having been discharged while that of his friend was still loaded. The police have been unable to obtain any clue to the whereabouts of the latter.

137. The fifth case was a quarrel between two Malays, the one, suspecting the other of intimacy with his wife, gave him a severe beating with a stick, on which the latter retaliated fatally with a knife he had ; he was acquitted on trial.

138. The sixth was the murder of an old Chinese vegetable gardener by some person or persons unknown, apparently with the object of plunder; the Acting Superintendant of Police reports that there is no clue to the murderer or murderers, no property being missing, and they having left no trace of themselves, but I understood from a leading Chinese resident, to whom I mentioned the matter, that two other vegetable planters, or who were nominally of that occupation, living at some little distance from deceased, had disappeared since the murder, and that it was known that he had lately sold some pigs, and was supposed that these two men, imagining deceased to have brought home the money resulting from the sale, had committed the crime with the intention of securing it, but, as a matter of fact, the deceased had left the money with a friend, intending to buy some fresh pigs, so the murderers got nothing for their trouble.

139. It seems strange the police should be unacquainted with what would seem to be matter of common rumour amongst the Chinese, and it should be possible, through the Land Office or the Chinese societies, to get the names of the suspected persons and take steps for ascertaining their whereabouts.

140. The seventh case was the shooting of a Malay ex-Pĕnghûlu in his house in the evening after dark, when he was sitting in the midst of his family, by some person from outside. A man whom the deceased suspected as having possibly been the offender was taken upon suspicion, but proved clearly that he was away 14 or 15 miles at the time, with a sore foot. The police have their suspicions as to the real offender, and are in hopes of being able to bring him up.

141. There was one case of highway robbery, and another of gang robbery, but in neither case have the offenders been discovered.

142. I cannot think the detective branch of the force in Malacca a satisfactory one, nor can it be expected to be so as long as it remains on its present footing ; the thing is a farce, everybody knows who the detectives are,—the best of the regular force, and therefore the best known.

143. The number of inquests during the past three years are as follows:—

	1883.	1884.	1885.
Inanition	—	—	1
Beri-beri	—	—	1
Murder	2	2	5
Homicide	1	—	1
Felo-de-se	2	1	7
Accidental death	29	15	30
Natural causes	10	23	12
Heart disease	—	—	1
Open verdicts	12	6	—
Found drowned	—	—	6
Cause unknown	—	—	1
Tetanus	—	—	2
Found shot	—	—	1
Total	56	47	68

SOCIETIES.

Chinese and Malay.

144. The number borne on the registers of the Chinese societies will be found hereunder:—

	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
Ghee Hin	1,778	2,549	3,281	4,524	4,786	3,652
Do., Macao	282	344	404	454	454	274
Ghee Bu	556	581	592	640	646	—
Hok Beng	1,126	1,802	2,403	2,751	2,836	—
Hei San	357	440	504	559	583	336
Total	4,099	5,716	7,184	8,928	9,305	4,262

145. In the early part of the year disputes arose between the Ghee Hin, Ghee Bu, and Hok Beng societies, a certain amount of disturbance ensued, and this led to the suppression of the two last named societies, and the confiscation of their property. These measures have had satisfactory results.

(*a.*) It is desirable that an officer knowing Chinese should be stationed in Malacca to look after immigrants, as well as to assist the police in keeping the societies in order; I am afraid that cases occur on plantations which ought to come before a judge and jury, but they either do not reach the ears of the police, or only vague rumours do, which cannot be traced and utilised.

(*b.*) There was a case quite lately of a cooly at a plantation dying from a beating, but it was settled in a *kongsi*, and I believe never reached the ears of the police. The offender sent some money—$6 or $7, I am told—in a letter to the relatives of deceased in China.

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146. The Acting Superintendent reports that, though the Malay Flag societies have no longer a formal existence, their former members still require close watching, owing to the party feeling still displayed from time to time.

Hackney Carriages.

147. The Acting Superintendent has effected considerable improvement in the class of hack carriages by exercising a stricter supervision; the numbers for the past year were:—1st class, none; 2nd class, 9; 3rd class, 106; Jinrickshas, 48.

Contagious Diseases Ordinance.

148. The numbers of inmates on the registers are:—

	Chinese.	Malay.	Indian.
1884 - - - - -	983	—	—
1885 - - - - -	1,015	—	—

149. Owing to their unwholesome condition some of the brothels were closed in 1884. Last year a new site was selected, on which a leading Chinaman is putting up new houses of a satisfactory kind, in Kampong Jâwa, and it is to be hoped that they will be occupied before long.

150. When this is done, the old houses, at least the condemned portion, should be pulled down and the soil should have inflammable materials mixed with it and be thoroughly burnt before it is allowed to be built on again; it is now in a disgusting condition.

Prisons.

151. The prisoners committed to the criminal prison were:—

	1883.	1884.	1885.
One month and under - - -	98	86	57
Two months and under - - -	28	31	31
Three months and under - - -	29	19	25
Six months and under - - -	37	24	25
One year and under - - - -	4	1	3
Two years and under - - -	5	2	5
Three years and under - - -	1	2	6
Four years and under - - -	3	1	3
Ten years and under - - -	8	1	—
Life - - - - - -	1	—	1
Total - - - -	214	167	156

152. Of the foregoing, for 1885, 116 were Chinese, 25 Malays, and 55 Indians, which, according to the last census, makes one in 170 or the Chinese, one in 2,700 for the Malays, and one in 129 for the Indians.

153. Nineteen (19) long-sentenced prisoners were transferred to Singapore, against eight in 1884.

154. The daily average of prisoners was 21·66: the daily average number in hospital was 1·47.

155. There were no escapes.

156. The usual satisfactory conditions were maintained under the careful watch of the superintendent.

157. In the civil prison were committed:—

——	1884.	1885.
For safe custody - - -	105	134
For trial - - - -	14	28
Simple imprisonment - -	16	33
Debtors - - - -	4	1
Lunatics - - - -	17	23
Total - -	156	219

158. Of the 23 lunatics, 13 were discharged by order of the magistrate after being subjected to medical observation, 7 were transferred to the lunatic asylum at Singapore, and one died in the prison, while two remained there at the close of the year.

159. The offences committed by prisoners do not call for comment.

160. There were two deaths in the prison—one that of the lunatic already mentioned, from inanition, the other that of a Chinaman, who was already ill when he entered the prison.

Education.

161. The average enrolment in the schools of the Settlement shows progress in all, except the Malacca Girls' School, which cannot, in the present condition of things, be expected to increase in numbers for some little time, and of the Banda Ilir Boys' School, which has been closed, as may be seen in the table annexed.

——	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
High School - - Boys	242	299	276	275	303	308
French Mission School—						
St. Francis - Boys	173	165	135	101	130	164
The Convent - Girls	80	100	70	95	94	101
Portuguese Mission School—						
Tranquerah - Boys	38	35	32	33	31	33
Banda Ilir - Boys	37	40	31	32	—	—
Tranquerah - Girls	34	33	31	32	32	39
Malacca Girls' School - -	25	18	19	16	18	16
Vernacular Schools - Boys	637	636	796	1,437	1,706	2,097
Vernacular Schools - Girls	—	—	—	—	—	39
Total - -	1,266	1,326	1,390	2,021	2,314	2,797

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162. Of the schools in this Settlement, the vernacular, which numbered 69 at the close of 1885, require more supervision than they get at present.

163. Of course, much in the way of results, in proportion to their numbers, cannot be at once expected, many of them being only lately established; at the end of 1881 there were only 21, with an average enrolment of 636, so that in the four years succeeding to the end of 1885, 48 new schools have been established.

164. More frequent and unexpected visits are required than are paid at present, something beyond those of the visiting teacher, and oftener and more unexpected than those of the inspector of schools.

165. I do not think what is needed calls for the appointment of a superintendent, but the inspector might perhaps arrange to visit the Settlement more often, and between his visits the magistrate might be of some use, by making inspections on his way to or from the country courts, and would have time to make unexpected inspections as well.

166. On the introduction of a system of district administration, the district collectors would, of course, closely supervise the vernacular schools, but in the meantime the temporary arrangement I have suggested might suffice.

167. The Magistrate would have a travelling allowance, or the vote for transport under the head education should be charged with the cost of his inspections.

168. The amount of $150 provided for scholarships, vernacular schools, seems very small to encourage competition amongst the foremost boys of, say, 50 schools.

169. From what I understand of the inspections, I do not feel satisfied that the system adopted is calculated to elicit and encourage intelligence, but fear it rather tends to foster a mechanical, by rote, way of learning what has to be learnt.

170. The teachers require a sharp eye upon them, not only to see that they do their educational work properly, and keep their returns honestly, but also to see that they do not abuse their position by utilising their pupils as servants or making them do work of some kind for them.

171. The small fee which has been abolished has never or seldom been paid by the parents, but by the teachers, so its abolition does not affect the former, and the suggestion that they should in return for it assist in building and repairing schools is very unlikely to meet with acceptance.

172. The simplest way would be to make both education and the payment of a very small fee compulsory, and the Pĕnghûlus a large body of whom I summoned to see me in connexion with the abolition of the fee and the suggestion already alluded to, were unanimously in favour of it.

173. Once made compulsory by law, education would cease to meet with the passive resistance it still encounters.

Hospitals.

174. The following table shows the number of patients treated in the different hospitals during the year :—

	General.	Lock.	Pauper.	Gaol.	Leper.	Small-pox.	Total.
Remained from 1884	7	4	93	—	3	—	107
Admitted in 1885	225	79	912	29	9	—	1,254
Total	232	83	1,005	29	12	—	1,361
Discharged	214	81	718	25	2	—	1,040
Absconded	4	—	5	—	1	—	10
Transferred	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Died	5	—	163	2	1	—	171
Total	223	81	886	27	7	—	1,224
Remained at the close of 1885	9	2	119	2	5	—	137
Total	232	83	1,005	29	12	—	1,361
Per-centage of deaths to total treated	2·15	—	16·12	6·89	—	—	—

175. The surroundings and accommodation at the General and Pauper Hospitals, which are on the same grounds at Dûrian Daun, hardly admit of improvement, but the death-rate of the latter, as will be seen above, still continues too high, though much lower than it was last year, when it was 25·62.

176. The Colonial Surgeon still attributes the cause to the advanced stage of the disease at which the patients make their first appearance in hospital.

177. It is satisfactory to be able still to state that no case of gangrene has occurred in the hospital during the year.

178. The fence surrounding the hospital compound is on its last legs, and a new one, of a more permanent kind, will have to be provided for in 1887.

179. It will be noted with satisfaction that the new small-pox hospital at Banda Ilir, which was completed in August, was not occupied up to the end of the year.

180. The Lock hospital being a much larger building than is required for the purpose, a scheme is in contemplation for converting it into a Public Works and Survey Office, and removing the patients to a new building to be erected at Dûrian Daun, which will be more satisfactory in every way.

181. The return dealing with the gain or loss in weight of opium smokers, whose consumption of the drug is put an end to while they are in gaol, continues further to support the remarks I made in my last report, 19 of 27 smokers having gained weight, while five lost, and three remained the same.

Vaccination.

182. The returns annexed under this head are satisfactory, showing a continuous increase in the number of cases, but the per-centage of successful cases is not so good as last year, though still much above that of the year before; no explanation is given of the falling off.

	1883.	1884.	1885.
Cases - - - - -	1,750	2,801	3,083
Per-centage of successful cases - -	70	87½	80

183. It would appear from the returns given by the Principal Civil Medical Officer, that since the introduction of vaccination in Malacca in 1870, 24,507 persons have been vaccinated, with an average per-centage of successful cases of 79⅕, making a total of 19,355 successful vaccinations during the past 15 years.

Out-door Dispensary.

184. The Out-door Dispensary, opened in February 1885, may be regarded as a decided success; 1,076 cases have been treated during the 11 months it was open.

185. The patients were mostly Chinese and Portuguese.

186. About 60 per cent. were of the non-paying, and 40 per cent. of the paying class. The receipts were $255.95.

General Health.

187. The general health of the Settlement has been very good, as the Colonial Surgeon points out, in spite of the drought which prevailed during the first three months of the year, only 2·24 inches of rain having been registered during the period.

188. This may be attributed to the improved sanitary condition of the town, consequent on the completion of a proper drainage system, and perhaps also to the fruit having not yet come in.

Births and Deaths.

189. The following figures show the births and deaths registered during the past five years:—

Years.	Births.	Deaths.
1881 - - - -	2,100	1,244
1882 - - - -	1,896	3,930
1883 - - - -	2,142	2,652
1884 - - - -	2,718	2,784
1885 - - - -	2,715	2,465

190. The high figures for 1882 in the deaths column record, it will be remembered, the results of the cholera epidemic of that year.

191. The improvement in the births figures is still maintained, while the deaths show a fall, which is satisfactory, though it may, in some small measure, be due to Chinese plantation coolies having left the Settlement.

Meteorological.

192. The rainfall for the year at the town observatory was only 77·74 inches, 6·63 inches less than in 1884, or about 18 inches below what has been considered the average, so that there appears to be an arrear of something like 60 inches to be made up altogether.

193. Observations have been taken at 10 stations, but only in town, at Dûrian Daun and at Kĕsang, for the whole of the year, the other stations having been established later in the year.

194. The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours was recorded at the Kandang Station, 4½ miles south-east of Malacca, viz., 4·29 inches; next comes the town with 4 inches, and Kwâla Linggi with 3·80.

195. Kandang, so far as may be judged by the returns for the last five months of the year, which are all that we have, seems to have a good share of the rainfall, having for the period 49·21, against 47·76 of the town station for the same period, while Kwâla Linggi appears to have been well supplied, for the nine months of which we have record, with 68·80 inches, the lowest figure for any month of that period being 4·26.

196. Kĕsang and Nyâlas, on the other hand, are worst off with 54·37 for the 12 months, and 39·22 for nine months respectively, though the latter is close to hill ranges of considerable elevation.

Savings Bank.

197. Thirty accounts have been opened at this bank since it was started in May 1883, and 14 remained on 31st December 1885.

198. A statement of assets and liabilities (E.) will be found attached.*

Malacca Library.

199. The library is still in receipt of the annual contribution of $500 from Government, but this amount is not enough to enable the committee to procure a sufficient supply of books to meet the wants of subscribers, and, having regard to the high proportion borne by the subscriptions towards the Government donation as compared with that in the other Settlements, it would be only reasonable that the donation should be doubled.

200. The number of books in stock at the end of 1885 was 1,129 only, the revenue being mainly expended in the salaries of

* Not printed.

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a clerk and peon, and the annual payment for newspapers and periodicals.

201. The following figures show the financial position :—

		$	c.	$	c.
Revenue :—					
Government donation	-	500	00		
Subscriptions -	-	745	82		
Balance previous year	-	163	08		
				1,408	90
Expenditure -	-			1,408	56
Balance in hand -	-			0	34

202. The number of visitors to the library during the year was about 2,500.

Native States.

203. The road from Lûbok Chîna to Sungei Ujong, passing through Rĕmbau territory, has been completed, and the portion within Rĕmbau territory nearly completed metalling, the other portion in Sungei Ujong having been taken over by the Government of that State.

204. The road from Tampin to Rĕpah, about 4 miles of the road to Kwâla Pîlah, has been retraced and constructed.

205. The road from Rĕpah to Tûmang in Johol, a distance of 6 miles, has been constructed by contract, and is an excellent bit of work. I only regret that I was precluded from carrying it right through to Kwâla Pîlah.

206. A bridle path was traced and completed from Tûmang to Kwâla Pîlah, a distance of 14 miles, some of it very hard work, but the gradient nowhere exceeds one in 20. In some parts the soil is very fine, dark, and deep.

207. The bridle path from Bâtang Malâka to Gĕmĕncheh, 9½ miles, was completed.

208. A trace was made from Bâtang Malâka to Chĕndras, with the view of getting a more direct and less hilly route to Malacca than the old one, should the working of Chĕndras be resumed at any time, and should this take place, a further saving of distance would be effected by using the Machap road instead of the Kĕsang one, the total saving would be about 5 miles, as well as having a road with much better gradients.

209. The following paths have been improved :—Sri Mĕnanti to Gûnong Pâsir, Kwâla Pîlah towards Kwâla Jĕmpol, and Tĕrachi towards Bukit Pûtus.

210. Up-keep has been maintained on the roads and paths already constructed.

211. Having furnished a separate report on these States, towards the latter part of 1885, in some detail, it has been unnecessary to do more than indicate the amount of work completed by the end of the year.

212. A few words are, however, due on the state of our relations with these neighbours of ours and on their prospects in the way of development.

213. On the first point I have no hesitation in saying that our relations with all the States have become closer since the date of my report just alluded to, and this has been secured by his Excellency's visit all through these States in December last year, which had a marked effect.

214. Of course all little troubles have not disappeared, and they never do, because fresh ones are always cropping between natives of position, but as long as a firm and friendly way of dealing is adopted, there need be no apprehension of difficulties of a serious character arising.

215. As to the prospects of development, it may be observed that Sri Mĕnanti is the State which promises the earliest advance, because of her tin fields, though her revenue is this moment smaller than that of Rĕmbau.

216. For the same reason too the Government are interesting themselves more directly in Sri Mĕnanti, where there is promise of a tin company starting to develop the Kwâla Pîlah neighbourhood.

217. More land is being taken up in Rĕmbau for tapioca planting, and gambier, I believe, as well, and the same thing is being done both in Tampin and Johol, but these concessions require to be supervised by the Government, otherwise the interests of the States concerned will suffer. I have already taken action in the direction indicated, and trust that it will be continued and brought to a satisfactory conclusion with a due regard for a consideration which pioneers look for, as well as for the interests of the State.

218. Another reason for supervising the terms of leases, grants, or concessions is that it gives Government the needful knowledge as to the revenue being obtained, and will give an indication when steps should be taken to secure interest or repayment of our advances, or to obtain some control over the revenue with that object in view.

219. There is, I understand, some prospect of land in the Chĕndras district being taken up by a new company with sufficient capital, and I trust this may be done in good earnest before long.

220. There is a stipulation in the Native State Farm Contracts that the farmers shall raise the amount of rent they pay when there is a material increase in the numbers of the Chinese, and I therefore called for returns of the Chinese in each State at the beginning of the year, so as to afford a means of comparison every year or half-year as may be required.

221. I trust that there will be no difficulty in obtaining for 1887 an advance large enough to complete the roadway from Tûmang to Kwâla Pîlah, and if the Chĕndras company really starts, to make the trace from Bâtang Malâka into a roadway, and put up a station at Chĕndras, and for the pay of police, in addition to what may be required for the pay of the collector at Kwâla Pîlah, and of the Clerk of Works, Native States, and the subordinate staff,

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the up-keep of the different roads and paths, the construction of such new ones as should not be postponed, and the constructio nof two weirs in Johol, which will open up some square miles of padi land for cultivation; this I think a particularly pressing work, which should not be delayed, as being directly beneficial to the Malays of the country, and consequently having that effect upon their minds which it is the desire of Government to secure.

222. Besides the above, there are the allowances to the Yam Tûan and Chiefs in Sri Mĕnanti, but the revenue derived from the farms and other small items, should nothing be derived from tin, which I do not anticipate, should go far to meet these claims.

223. There is so much intercourse between Rĕmbau and Sri Mĕnanti that something should be spent on turning the track to Gunong Pâsir into a decent bridle path.

224. I should not close these remarks about the Native States without acknowledging the hard and good work done by Mr. Leopold Cazalas, the Clerk of Works, who has succeeded in getting some of the work done very cheap indeed.

D. F. A. HERVEY,
Resident Councillor.

LABUAN.

LABUAN.

No. 7.

Administrator P. LEYS to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

EXTRACT.

Government House, Labuan,
August 30, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to forward, enclosed, the Labuan Blue Book for 1885.

Revenue.

The revenue for 1885 was $21,555.26 as against $22,946.56 in the preceding year, but the decrease in permanent revenue was much more than appears from a comparison of these totals, as $2,000 was received during 1885 under the head of miscellaneous services, from a source from which nothing was collected in 1884, and from which there is little or no prospect of revenue accruing in future. The chief source of service, namely, the opium farm, fell from $12,000 in 1884 to $8,000 in 1885. This decrease has already been remarked on by Mr. Treacher in forwarding the estimates for 1885.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure was $22,028·94 as against $21,079.94 in 1884. This slight increase is due chiefly to some arrears of salaries paid in 1885, and some furnishings for Government House. There was a decreased expenditure for works and buildings and an increased expenditure on roads.

Legislation.

Besides the two usual appropriation Ordinances two Ordinances were enacted during the year, one to define the offences triable by police magistrates under the provisions of Ordinance IV. of 1884, and the second to regulate the assessment and collection of rates in Victoria.

Imports and Exports.

The values of the imports and exports as given in this Blue Book and in the one for the previous year are as follows:—

——	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	$	$	$
1884 - - - -	407,370	411,555	818,925
1885 - - - -	409,598	386,089	795,687

On comparing the different items we find that there has been a falling off in 1885 in the amounts of arms and ammunition, coal, opium, tobacco, and especially of gutta imported and exported, and an increase in camphor, parafine oil, and especially sago imported and exported.

Shipping.

A decreased trade with Borneo proper and an increased trade with British Borneo, and especially with Sarawak, is noticeable, due chiefly to the acquisition of territory by the Governments of the two latter from the former.

The returns under produce and stock are perhaps too high

A reduction in the number of prisoners and crime generally is noticeable as compared with previous years.

A table of the rainfall for the year has been added for the first time to these returns.

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No. 8.

Governor Sir H. W. NORMAN, K.C.B., C.I.E., to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

MY LORD, King's House, May 25, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of Jamaica for the year ending 30th September 1885, together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) H. W. NORMAN,
The Earl Granville, K.G. Governor.
&c. &c.

BLUE BOOK REPORT 1884–5.

Legislation.

In the two sessions of the Legislature held within the 12 months ending 30th September 1885, 41 laws were passed, numbered from Laws 3 to 21 of 1884, and from Laws 1 to 22 of 1885.

The main feature of the legislation of the year was the enactment of laws to provide for the operation of the order of Her Majesty the Queen in Council altering the Constitution of the Legislative Council, viz., laws for the registration of voters, for the mode of carrying out elections, and for dealing with petitions in connexion with elections; and provision of law was also made for carrying out the intention of extending the elective system to parochial Boards.

The following laws may be specially noticed:—

Law 4 of 1884.—The Seeds and Plants Importation Law. The law was the outcome of a fear lest destructive insects which had caused great havoc in Ceylon and India should be introduced here with seeds and plants from those places. The law gives power to the Governor, if necessary, to prohibit or restrict the importation of seeds and plants, should such a precaution be deemed necessary at any time.

Law 6 of 1884.—The Army and Navy Drawback Law. Under Law 11 of 1867 the exemption from duty was only allowed on goods originally imported by bill of lading for military and naval use. Following a previous law it had been the practice from time to time to apply to the Council by message from the Governor for sanction to refund to the Commissariat the duty on goods which had been purchased from local contractors here; and had not been originally imported by the army and navy. The object of the law is merely to confirm the practice and obviate the necessity of coming to the Council from time to time for such votes of refund.

Law 13 of 1884.—The Probate of Wills Law. The Attorney General reporting on this law does so in the following words, which explain its scope:—

"It is well known that although the probate of a will so long as it remains unrevoked is good evidence of the title of the executors to personal property, it is no evidence at all of the title of a devisee to real property. Further, the Supreme Court having inherited under Law 24 of 1879 the powers of the Court of Ordinary in relation to wills, has no jurisdiction in respect of wills dealing with real property only, and on which no executor is appointed. The object of the present law was to amend the law in these respects; first of all to make the probate, or a record of the same, evidence of title to reality as well as to personality, and next to empower the Supreme Court to grant probate of a will that does not affect personal estate."

Law 14 of 1884.—Quit Rents Forfeiture Law. It was discovered that the form of writ for commencing proceedings for the forfeiture of land for non-payment of quit rents which had been substituted by section 276 of Law 41 of 1872 for that given by section 10 of Law 5 of 1871 was itself swept away by Law 25 of 1879, so that it became impracticable to commence proceedings in these cases. This law remedies this omission, and at the same time adopts the procedure in these cases to the present procedure of the Supreme Court. The law accordingly provides for the repeal of Law 5 of 1871 and Law 43 of 1872, the latter being an amendment of the former.

Law 17 of 1884.—The Railways Further Loan Law. This law gives authority for the raising of a further loan of 183,000*l.* for railway extension purposes, it having been found that the loans already raised for the purpose were not sufficient to complete the works in which unforeseen causes of expense had occurred.

Law 18 of 1884.—The Prison Law, 1882, Amendment Law, 1884. The Prison Law, 1882 (No. 180) when transmitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation was subjected to criticism on the part of the prison authorities in England, who made various suggestions with regard to the amendments to our law, and these are embodied in this law. The amendments are practically in matters of detail. One of the most important sections of the law enables the Government to introduce into the penitentiary what is known in England as the mark system, which has been found self-working, and under which a convict can always obtain a remission of his sentence in accordance with his behaviour.

Law 19 of 1884.—Voluntary Declarations Law, 1884. This law goes to supply a want said to have been very much felt in transactions relating to real property, in which the greatest difficulty was often experienced in proving a birth, death, or marriage, owing to the fact that a regular system of registration of births, deaths, and marriages had only quite recently been established.

Law 20 of 1884.—The Registration of Voter's Law, 1884. The bill which has become law was introduced in obedience to the provisions of clause 25 of Her Majesty's Order in Council,

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dated the 19th May 1884, and as its title implies lays down a system for the registration of voters for elections to the Legislature and to the parochial boards.

Law 21 of 1884.—The Elections Law, 1884. This law, which makes provision for the regulation of the election of members to serve in the Legislative Council in this Island, incorporates such clauses of the Order in Council of the 19th May 1884 as are applicable to elections, and it was the intention of the framer (the Attorney General) to render it a complete code of election law, and to prevent the necessity of referring in part to the Order in Council, and in part to the law with reference to the procedure at elections. The provisions of the law are founded in the main on the provisions of the Imperial Ballot Act, 1872 (35 & 36 Victoria, c. 33).

Law 3 of 1885.—The Elections Petitions Law, 1885. This law makes provision for the trial of petitions complaining of undue return of members of the Legislative Council.

Law 6 of 1885.—The Escheat Law, 1881, Amendment Law, 1885. This law was passed to create a means for making suitable inquiry into the merits of applications for letters of preference to prosecute escheat proceedings made by persons alleging themselves to have a strong moral claim on the deceased person whose land had become liable to escheat, a large number of which applications are from time to time received by the Governor.

Law 10 of 1885.—The Emigrants Protection Law, 1885. The object of this law is to give the Government a control over the emigration of young persons to countries in which no adequate provision exists for their proper protection. The occasion for introducing this measure was the ill-treatment and want of protection experienced by young persons leaving this Island for service with persons in Hayti, as represented by Her Majesty's Consul.

Law 12 of 1885.—The Marriage and Registration (Cayman Islands) Law, 1885. This law extends to the Cayman Islands, small dependencies of Jamaica, the provisions of the marriage laws of this island with certain qualifications and provisions for construing the same.

Law 13 of 1885.—The Inscribed Stock Law, 1885. It was found necessary in raising a recent issue of Jamaica Government Debentures to agree to a condition made with the Crown Agents on behalf of the Colony that a Bill should be introduced into the Legislative Council enabling the Governor to confer on the Crown Agents the necessary powers to issue a 4 per cent. Jamaica Inscribed Stock to be exchanged for the debentures taken under the recent and former railway loans. This law carries out this condition, and makes other necessary consequent provisions. It also gives the Governor a general power to raise by means of Inscribed Stock moneys which he may be authorised to raise by way of loan.

Law 14 of 1885.—The Wreck and Salvage Law (Turks and Caicos Islands, 1885. The object of this law is merely to adopt more conveniently to the peculiar circumstances of the Turks and Caicos

Islands some of the provisions of the Wreck and Salvage Law of 1875. The law was already in operation in those Islands, but it was found in its working that the details were not in all respects suitable to the Settlement; hence the necessity for amending it.

Law 16 of 1885.—The Parochial Boards Law, 1885. This law provides for the constitution of municipal boards by the election of members instead of their appointment by the Government as heretofore, and also for vesting in these boards the functions heretofore vested in the Parochial Road Commissioners for the several parishes, and also for altering the name and style of such boards, which are now designated "Parochial Boards," except in the case of the city of Kingston, where the Board is styled the "City Council."

This measure is an extension to parishes of the principal of popular representation which has been conceded in the Legislative Council.

Law 17 of 1885.—The Consignees Lien Abolition Law, 1885. The preamble of this law very concisely gives the reasons for its enactment in the following words "Whereas it has been found by "experience that the operation of the doctrine of law giving to "the consignees or factors of estates a lien upon the same and the "produce thereof is prejudicial to the proprietors of estates who "may have occasion to borrow money on the security of such "estates by rendering it difficult to obtain the required advances "from any person other than the merchant who acts as consignee "of the produce of such estates, and is, moreover, productive of "great hardship and injustice in many instances to mortgagees "and others who have advanced money on the security of estates, "and it is accordingly deemed expedient to abolish the said "doctrine of law, leaving it open to any such proprietor as "aforesaid if he sees fit, by any instrument duly recorded, to "create such lien or charge in favour either of his consignee or of "any other person, or to mortgage his said estate without leaving "the mortgagee liable to have his right overridden by any lien or "charge that may not have been expressly made and duly recorded "as aforesaid." The consignees lien by operation of law is abolished by this law after the 31st December 1885.

Law 19 of 1885.—The Gunpowder and Fire Arms Law, 1870, Amendment Law, 1885. The law was passed to enable the Government to deal with any difficulty that might arise with respect to the introduction of dynamite or other explosive substances.

Finance.

The year commenced with a surplus of 17,801*l.*, and the general revenues amounted during the year to 504,718*l.* so that there was thus an available sum of 522,519*l.* to meet the current expenditure of the year. The total expenditure, including 12,557*l.* set aside for sinking funds and 1,600*l.* used in redemption of debt, amounted to 484,510*l.* which left a surplus to be carried on to the succeeding year of 38,009*l.*

The appropriated revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads,

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pauper relief, sanitary, and other local services, and are administered by the parochial boards, produced in 1884–85, 90,437*l.*, being 2,456*l.* in excess of the amount received on this account in 1883–84.

The revenue appropriated to immigration services amounted to 17,242*l.*, or 1,192*l.* less than the year before.

The usual comparative table of the whole of the Treasury receipts in the year under report with those of the previous year is given below :—

——	1884–85.	1883–84.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Import duties	263,564	251,226	12,338	—
Export duties	6,337	4,377	1,960	—
Light dues	2,068	1,922	146	—
Harbour master's fees	1,336	985	351	—
Rum duties	84,581	85,333	—	752
Licenses	16,987	15,347	1,640	—
Stamps	16,906	18,463	—	1,557
Postal revenue	16,628	17,033	—	405
Telegraph revenue	4,244	4,511	—	267
Tax on Stock	4,866	4,837	29	—
Court fees	7,018	7,081	—	63
Fines and forfeitures	2,565	2,650	—	85
Interest on securities for sinking funds	6,700	6,237	463	—
Interest on Saving Bank investment after paying depositors	3,352	2,092	1,260	—
Interest other than as above	2,626	3,069	—	443
Jamaica railway revenue	32,019	27,086	4,933	—
Reimbursements	19,943	16,566	3,377	—
Miscellaneous	12,978	4,491	8,487	—
	—	—	34,984	3,572
	504,718	473,306	31,412	—
Revenues specially appointed.				
Parochial road revenues	40,496	39,514	982	—
Kingston street tax	2,317	2,938	—	621
Parochial municipal objects	8,057	7,491	566	—
Poor rates	29,678	28,899	779	—
Sanitary rates	4,040	4,074	—	34
Fire rates	1,420	1,463	—	43
Gas rates	3,421	2,580	841	—
Miscellaneous	1,008	1,022	—	14
	—	—	3,168	712
	90,437	87,981	2,456	—

	1884–85.	1883–84.	Increase.	Decrease.
Immigration Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Export duties - - -	12,075	13,328	—	1,253
Interest (general) - -	309	366	—	57
Proceeds of planters' notes -	4,707	2,657	2,050	—
Miscellaneous - - -	151	2,083	—	1,932
	—	—	2,050	3,242
	17,242	18,434	—	1,192
Total of all revenues - -	612,397	579,721	32,676	—
Receipts on Debt Account.				
Law 27 of 1872 - - -	82,500	—	82,500	—
Law 17 of 1884 - - -	183,000	—	183,000	—
Excess of deposits over withdrawals	—	35,486	—	35,486
	—	—	298,176	35,486
	877,897	615,207	262,690	—

It will thus be seen that the yield of the general revenue without any increase of taxation was 31,412*l.* in excess of the amount received in the previous year. The chief increases were as follows:— 12,338*l.* under import duties, 1,960*l.* under export duties, 1,640*l.* under licences, 1,260*l.* under interest on savings bank deposits, 4,933*l.* under railway revenue, 3,377*l.* under re-imbursements, and 8,487*l.* under miscellaneous; while the only decreases worthy of notice were 752*l.* under rum duties, and 1,557*l.* under stamps, the stamp revenue for 1883–84 having been exceptionally high owing to the collection in that year of arrears of probate duty. The revenue under miscellaneous includes 7,136*l.* on account of recovered lands, in respect of which item there were no receipts in the preceding year; but the other increases may be regarded as very satisfactory.

The increase of the railway revenue is due to the opening of the new extension lines, of which one was open for seven months, and the other for six weeks of the year under review.

The receipts on account of appropriated revenues show nothing unusual, and call for no special remarks.

Under immigration revenues there is a decrease of 1,253*l.* in export duties, which is to be regretted, as indicating a short crop of sugar and rum; the decrease of 1,932*l.* under miscellaneous is accounted for by the lapsing during the previous year of nearly

that amount lodged by free coolies to pay for passages, which thus unduly swelled the receipts on that account in that year.

The following is a similar comparative statement of the Treasury disbursements compared with those in the preceding year :—

	1884–85.	1883–84.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Interest on debt	65,823	43,159	22,664	—
Pensions	12,629	13,150	—	521
Administrative departments (including Government savings bank)	33,797	31,961	1,836	—
Revenue departments	32,234	33,048	—	814
Postal services	18,600	19,298	—	698
Telegraph services	3,937	3,724	213	—
Judicial	34,715	34,561	154	—
Ecclesiastical	7,409	7,450	—	41
Medical	49,031	48,504	527	—
Constabulary	48,324	49,173	—	849
Penitentiary and prisons	18,567	19,723	—	1,156
Reformatories	3,986	4,363	—	377
Education	28,945	25,863	3,082	—
Harbour masters	925	837	88	—
Colonial allowance to troops	3,868	4,788	—	920
Pilotage and harbours	521	741	—	220
Steam communication with America	283	3,047	—	2,764
Steam communication round the Island	1,833	2,000	—	167
Subsidy West India and Panama Telegraph Company	2,000	2,000	—	—
Colonization of immigrants	9,660	7,723	1,937	—
Registrar-General's department	2,924	2,924	—	—
Island Record Office	985	871	114	—
Government printing establishment	5,750	6,192	—	442
Institute of Jamaica	917	920	—	3
Public plantations and gardens	5,000	5,388	—	388
Jamaica railway	18,016	12,047	5,969	—
Miscellaneous (including International Fisheries exhibition)	12,005	7,838	4,167	—
Public works	45,491	46,719	—	1,228
Lighthouses	2,123	1,437	686	—
Maintenance of forfeited lands	55	3,655	—	3,600
Parochial expenditure	—	2,038	—	2,038
	—	—	41,437	16,226
	470,353	445,142	25,211	—

	1884–85.	1883–84.	Increase.	Decrease.
Expenditure from appropriated Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Parochial roads - - -	41,166	34,534	6,632	—
Kingston streets - - -	231	18	213	—
Parochial municipal objects -	10,507	12,244	—	1,737
Relief of the poor - - -	31,257	30,498	759	—
Sanitary appropriation - -	4,783	3,923	860	—
Gas appropriation, Kingston -	2,828	2,838	—	10
Fire appropriation - - -	1,577	2,688	—	1,111
	—	—	8,464	2,858
	92,349	86,743	5,606	—
General expenditure - -	470,353	445,142	25,211	—
Expenditure from appropriated revenues - - -	92,349	86,743	5,606	—
Immigration revenues - -	14,715	30,700	—	15,985
	—	—	30,817	15,985
	577,417	562,585	14,832	—
Expenditure out of Loans raised for the purpose				
Jamaica railway - - -	77,741	141,160	—	63,419
Jamaica telegraph - -	—	188	—	188
Rio Cobre canal - - -	126,500	—	126,500	—
	—	—	141,332	63,607
	781,658	703,933	77,725	—
Disbursements other than Expenditure.				
Sinking funds - - -	12,557	12,939	—	382
Redemption of debt - -	1,600	2,600	—	1,000
Excess of withdrawals over deposits - - - -	39,099	—	39,099	—
	—	—	116,824	1 82
Grand total - - -	834,914	719,472	115,442	—

The general expenditure of the Colony thus shows an increase of 25,211*l.* over that of the preceding year, made up chiefly by increases under interest on debt due to the charging for the first time against general revenue of interest on the railway loans, and the appearance under this head of the interest on the Rio Cobre Canal Loan, hitherto charged under the head of public works, under administrative departments, under education, under colonization of immigrants, under railway, owing to the opening of the extension lines, and under miscellaneous (which includes the cost of the Commission to Canada to consider the question of a reciprocity treaty between the Dominion and Jamaica. Against these increases, however, there are to be put decrease under penitentiary and prisons, under steam communication with America,

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under public works (caused by the removal from this head of the interest on the Rio Cobre Canal Loan as stated above), under maintenance of forfeited lands, and under parochial expenditure (part of which only is now charged to general revenue), under judicial, the remainder being charged to the parochial surplus funds of the several parishes. In addition to the above chief decreases there are also smaller decreases under many of the other heads of expenditure.

The expenditure from the appropriated revenues is under the control of the parochial boards, and calls for no special comment, except perhaps an increase of 6,632*l.* spent on the parochial roads. This increase is due in part to larger grants from the Road Reserve fund, and to increased activity in road works in those parishes where an impetus has been given to trade by the extension of the railway and the development of the fruit trade.

The expenditure from immigration revenues show a decrease of 15,985*l.*, due chiefly to decreases of about 5,000*l.* under return passages, and 10,000*l.* under introduction of immigrants.

Pensions.

During the year 10 pensions, amounting in all to 687*l.*, were granted on the principles of the Imperial Superannuation Act and Treasury Rules, while relief to the pension list was accorded to the extent of 1,144*l.* by the deaths during the year of 13 pensioners.

Debt.

During the year a further issue of debentures to the extent of 183,000*l.* was made on account of railway extension under Law 17 of 1884, and the charge of the Rio Cobre Canal having now been directly assumed by the Central Government, debt to the extent of 82,500*l.* on this account was thus taken over. Before the debentures on account of railway extension were issued the Crown Agents obtained further temporary advances at low rates of interest to the extent of 70,000*l.*, which was afterwards repaid, together with other similar advances out of the proceeds of the Railway loan.

The loan of 183,000*l.* under Law 17 of 1884 was raised at 4 per cent. interest as follows:—

53,000*l.* was raised in Jamaica in issues of 33,000*l.* and 20,000*l.* at premiums of 6*s.* 9*d.* and 5*s.* 9*d.* per 100*l.* respectively, the whole 53,000*l.* being thus raised an at average premium of 6*s.* 4*d.* per 100*l.*

The remaining 130,000*l.* was raised in London at an average discount of 2*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* per 100*l.*, so that the whole loan of 183,000*l.* was raised at an average discount of 1*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* per 100*l.*

1,600*l.* of debt under the old Immigration laws was paid off, as well as 350*l.* on account of the loan under the 27 Vict. c. 37 for repairing public and parochial buildings met from sinking funds invested.

71,400*l.* of debt under 17 Vict. c. 35, was redeemed by debentures held under Law 39 of 1869 for this purpose.

9,500*l.* of debt under Law 39 of 1869, and 400*l.* of debt under Law 47 of 1869, were also redeemed during 1884–85.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenue has stood as follows on the 30th September in each of the last 10 years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking fund actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1876 - - -	501,413	8	5
1877 - - -	485,107	11	5
1878 - - -	641,644	10	9
1879 - - -	718,608	11	11
1880 - - -	721,481	6	8
1881 - - -	920,924	19	4
1882 - - -	1,238,750	0	0
1883 - - -	1,257,916	2	1
1884 - - -	1,243,899	18	9
1885 - - -	1,427,458	14	2

Of the above amount of debt on 30th September 1885, 721,590*l.* was on account of railway purchase and construction, and 126,500*l.* on account of the Rio Cobre canal.

The amount secured on general revenue has thus increased by a net amount of 183,558*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* In reduction of the amount of fresh debt, viz., 265,500*l.* are to be put the payment of debt above referred to and the further investment of sinking funds and accrued interest thereon.

The amount of debenture debt due by the several undertakings named below stood as under on the 30th September 1885:—

	£
Kingston and Liguanea waterworks - -	128,200
Kingston markets - - - -	20,000
Kingston gasworks - - - -	30,000
Kingston slaughter-house - - -	10,000

It will be seen that the Rio Cobre Irrigation debt no longer appears here, as it has now been assumed by general revenue as already stated above.

Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council as re-constituted under the Order of the Queen in Council of 19th May 1884 met on the 30th September 1884, and the fact was mentioned in last year's report as one to be properly chronicled in that year, but the proceedings of that Council fall within the record of this year.

The Council passed 19 laws, and adjourned on the 5th November 1884 to the 11th March 1885, and having passed 21 more laws the session was prorogued on 31st March to 7th July 1885. By proclamation dated 24th June 1885 the Council was further prorogued until the 16th September, on which day it met for the

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despatch of business, and to the end of the year under review had passed one law.

The Hon. E. G. Barrett, member for the electoral district of St. James and Trelawny, resigned his seat on the 5th August, and the Hon. Wellesley Bourke was elected in his room on the 1st September 1885.

Civil Establishment.

His Excellency General Sir Henry Norman, K.C.B., C.I.E., the Governor, left the Island on the 25th December 1884 on special service to inquire into a disturbance in Trinidad, and returned on the 19th January. During his absence the Government was administered by the senior member of the Privy Council, Colonel (now Major General) S. M. Wiseman-Clarke.

After 24 years service as a puisne judge, Mr Justice Ker retired on a pension, and died not long after his retirement, to the general regret of the Colony. His vacancy had not been filled at the end of the year.

The Hon. E. N. Walker, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, went on leave of absence in November for five months, and Mr. James Allwood, Assistant Colonial Secretary, acted in his stead.

On the return of Mr. Little, Judge of the Western District Court, from leave of absence, Mr. W. J. Anderson, Chief Judge of the Turks and Caicos Islands, who had been acting as his *locum tenens*, was appointed to act as judge of the Southern District Court in the room of Mr. H. J. Gibbons, who went on leave of absence, and subsequently resigned his appointment.

Mr. S. C. Burke, assistant to the Attorney-General, and Crown Solicitor, was granted leave of absence for six months from the 25th March, and Mr. W. Baggett Gray was appointed to act in the latter office, the former office being temporarily held by Mr. A. E. Burke.

Mr. Robert Batten, Supervisor of Revenue Offices, was granted six months leave from the 9th April, and his place was supplied by Mr. B. C. Orgill, Chief Clerk in the Collector General's Office.

In the Medical Department it may be mentioned that Dr. D. P. Ross, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., Senior Medical Officer of the Public Hospital in Kingston, was promoted to be Colonial Surgeon at Sierra Leone, and Dr. Frank Saunders was appointed to succeed him at the hospital.

Captain Hartwell, Inspector-General of Police, obtained six months leave of absence from the 24th May, which was extended for 34 days, and his duties were discharged by Mr. McLeod, a first class inspector.

Mr. Mackglashan, Auditor-General, also obtained six months leave of absence from the 24th June, and Mr. Musson, Chief Clerk of the Colonial Secretariat, was appointed to act in his place.

Mr. Hocking, the Attorney-General, was absent from the Island for a few weeks in May, June, and July, on a special mission to Canada, in connexion with a proposed Reciprocity Treaty with the Dominion, and his duties were discharged by Mr. Thomas Oughton.

Mr. Gillard, Collector-General, was also absent for the same period on the same mission, and the charge of his department was placed in the hands of Mr. C. Goldie (Customs) and Mr. B. C. Orgill (Internal Revenue).

Miss Johnson, Associate in Arts, Oxford, &c., &c., was engaged in England, and arrived here in August to take up the newly created office of Principal of the Female Training College.

Consequent on a reduction in the establishments recommended by the Royal Commissioners, which it was found possible to carry out to some extent, the Customs and Revenue Departments, upon a scheme of the Collector-General's, were blended in one revenue service as closely as was found practicable, and a general re-location of officers of the two branches and some retirements took place in April.

As directly connected with the Civil Establishment it may be mentioned here that it was notified in February 1885 that first appointments to third-class clerkships in the public service would in future be made by open competition, and the first examination was held in October 1885, at which there were 13 candidates for eight vacancies.

Public Works.

At the very commencement of the year a severe storm did much injury to the main roads in St. Thomas and parts of St. Andrew and Portland. Upwards of 15 inches of rain fell in one night at Morant Bay, and much damage was done to the roads by the sudden overflowing of some of the rivers.

During the rest of the year, however, no special causes affected the roads, so that by careful economies in other parts of the Island the total expenditure for maintenance of roads did not exceed the amount voted, and at the end of the year the roads were generally in good order, the average expenditure per mile having been only 31*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, as against 32*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* for last year.

The total expenditure under all heads of the Public Works Department (excluding railways) was 61,249*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*; of the above sum 26,151*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* was required for maintenance, repair, and new works on main roads and bridges, and 35,078*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* was expended in other works.

The 26,151*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* expended on main roads and bridges has, besides providing for ordinary repairs and maintenance, been also applied to works of improvement in various directions.

The iron girder bridge at Kildare, near Buff Bay, which had become unsafe, was taken down and replaced by a concrete arch.

Extensive repairs were executed at Barton's Bridge near Lacovia, the timbers having begun to decay. The roads have been improved in many places by being fenced and widened, gra-

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dients have been made more easy, concrete culverts and parapet walls have been placed, and foot-bridges erected.

Of the 35,078*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*, expended on other works, the main items were:—

	£
Repairs and maintenance of public buildings -	6,988
New Works on public buildings - -	5,548
Salaries - - - - -	8,443
Parochial services - - - -	4,328

The expenditure for repairs to public buildings is for usual maintenance, but includes extensive repairs to the Public General Hospital, Kingston, and to several churches which the Government is under engagement to keep in order pending their transfer to the Church body. The public buildings are in a fair state of repair.

Of the works coming under the head of New Works may be noticed a large ward commenced at the Lunatic Asylum for 42 patients, the erection of a constabulary station at Ewarton, of a disinfecting chamber at the Lazaretto, &c.

Under the head of Parochial Services are included the constructing and restoring of roads and bridges, reporting and advising on proposed parochial works, and superintending and inspecting them.

Spanish Town Waterworks.

The works in connexion with the Spanish Town Waterworks have continued under the management of the Director of Public Works the total cost of their maintenance and management for the year was 325*l.* 15*s* 2*d.*, being 22*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* in excess of the previous year. This excess is caused by increased payments under the heading "Turncocks and Laborers" and under "Contingencies" for materials. The total revenue for the year was 1,084*l.* 19*s.* or 97*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* less than the previous year. The falling off is under the head "Materials," as the collection for water rates has increased by 5*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* The net revenue for 1884–85 was 759*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* The works are in good order and the supply of water was satisfactory throughout the year.

Rio Cobre Canal.

The works have been maintained throughout the year at a cost of 1,537*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, being 24*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* less than the amount granted. In 1883–84 the maintenance amounted to 1,381*l.* 6*s.*, or 156*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* less than in the present year. The increased expenditure is principally due to work done on distribution channels.

The total length of new channels made was 2 miles 16 chains. The District Engineer reports that the cost of keeping the canals in order was greater than it need have been, owing to their not

naving been closed monthly for the purpose of being cleaned as was customary, but in consequence of the severity of the drought, Mr. Richmond abstained from closing the canals out of consideration for the consumers.

The revenue earned during the year was 2,709*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, and the amount collected 2,358*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* both earnings and collections being in excess of last year. On the 30th September last the arrears for water amounted to 577*l.* 7*s.* 11½*d.* of which sum 242*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* may be considered as irrecoverable.

The gain to the district in the past 12 months through the Rio Cobre Canal Works is admitted to have been very great. All landholders have benefited, whether they contributed to Canal Revenue or not, for although many penkeepers took no water direct from the canals they continued to get their stock watered at streams supplied by them. The peasantry were saved miles of walking to fetch water for domestic purposes by being able to take it from the canals, which are spread all over the district.

In closing this Report for the year the Engineer states :—

"I feel sure I am not over estimating the gain from the works in the year under review to those connected with the lands commanded by the Canals by placing the amount at 20,000*l.*, after deducting charges for water and cost of distribution by the consumers, and if water had been more generally used for the purpose of irrigation, the gain would have been proportionally greater."

Lands.

During the year properties comprising 194 acres have been recovered by the Crown from squatters under the 184th section of the District Court Law and 10,295 acres have been advertised for forfeiture under Law 5 of 1871 for nonpayment of quit and land tax.

The amount realised by the sales of Lands amounted to 1,171*l.*

A cadastral plan of the parish of Manchester on a scale of four inches to the mile was completed.

Island Telegraphs.

The working of this branch of the Post Office Department was satisfactory during the year, although the gross receipts 4,245*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, show a decrease of 266*l.* 13*s.* compared with those of the previous year, and the number of messages sent and received 76,886, a decrease of 3,658. This falling off in the Telegraph business during the year, the Postmaster attributes to the depression of the fruit trade, which, however, Mr. Sullivan states "is "now showing considerable signs of improvement and a corres- "ponding improvement in telegraph business may be anticipated "in 1885–86."

The expenditure on account of Telegraphs during the year was 3,936*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.* showing an increase of 211*l.* 19*s.* 7½*d.* over the

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previous year. This is due to necessary increases in the salaries and wages of the officers of the branch.

An arrangement was made during the year with the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, whereby Foreign Telegrams are transmitted from and received for delivery at the several telegraph stations in the Island, the inland rate being paid in addition to the foreign rate, as well as any porterage. This convenience has been appreciated by the public.

A temporary office was established at Cumberland Pen on the occasion of the Agricultural show there, and 21 messages were sent from the station.

Railways.

During the year the Extension lines to Porus and Ewarton were opened for traffic, the former on the 2nd of March 1885, and the latter on the 17th August.

The increase in traffic, however, in consequence of the opening of these extensions has been much less than was expected, nor has a considerable reduction of goods rates, which was made in the previous year, had the effect of attracting to the line as much more traffic as was anticipated. But this in General Mann's opinion is to be attributed to the falling off of the fruit trade, and the general depression of trade which has been universally felt. On the other hand there has been a fair increase in the number of passengers, the revenue from which source shows a tendency to increase.

The gross revenue for the year was 31,958*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, and the expenditure *17,003*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, thus leaving a net revenue of 14,955*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* The following statement shows the receipts for the year under review as compared with the two years preceding :—

	1884–85.	1883–84.	1882–83.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Goods and cattle - -	13,484 15 7	12,198 12 11	13,207 10 8
Passengers - -	14,977 18 3	11,678 4 3	10,314 12 2
Miscellaneous - -	1,610 14 0	1,203 12 10	317 4 9
Wharf - - -	1,885 4 5	1,938 7 0	1,805 15 0
Total - -	31,958 12 3	27,018 17 0	25,645 2 7

The return ticket system which was instituted on the 2nd March 1885, has not been in operation long enough to have had much effect on the railway receipts, but the manager is confident

* This does not include the maintenance of the Porus and Ewarton lines, which have to be maintained by the contractors for 12 months from the time they were completed.

that as its advantages become more appreciated, it will be the means of greatly increasing the number of passengers.

The following statement gives the number of passengers carried during the year as compared with the two previous years :—

—	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Season.	Total.
1884–85 -	18,271	16,122	157,730	9,724	201,847
1883–84 -	15,207	13,660	138,100	8,200	175,167
1882–83 -	13,733	12,928	114,779	7,956	149,396

A comparison made by the manager shows that the passenger fares in the Jamaica railway are much lower than the fares on many of the short lines of railway in England.

District Courts.

The following summary shows the business of the District Courts during the past 10 years :—

—	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
Criminal trials -	3,862	3,707	4,054	3,319	3,197	4,372	3,279	3,870	3,510	3,412
Small causes -	9,446	9,212	9,616	7,704	7,652	7,779	6,907	4,638	3,696	3,503
Judgment summonses - -	1,736	1,670	1,579	1,592	1,692	1,514	1,304	836	566	522
Equity cases -	6	8	21	20	15	19	14	20	21	14
Cases under Land Law - -	309	222	163	104	126	159	78	66	103	88
Bankruptcy cases -	13	17	5	1	8	1	6	4	4	2
Probate cases -	62	93	94	102	109	147	131	123	125	137
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount claimed -	56,490	60,894	63,300	51,510	47,408	54,736	45,735	33,236	28,012	25,923
Judgment obtained	27,970	30,976	32,348	28,479	34,056	30,747	26,946	19,718	16,411	15,858
Costs - - -	4,952	5,531	5,626	4,952	4,957	5,351	4,496	3,735	3,381	3,279
Court fees - -	5,597	5,436	5,491	4,757	4,484	4,588	4,073	3,708	3,525	3,422

There were 11 appeals from these courts during the year, four of which were allowed.

A Commission sat during the year to review the judicial system of the Island, the chief feature being a proposed re-organisation of the District Courts.

Botanical.

The distribution of plants and seeds of the botanical department has been actively carried on during the year, and a valuable herbarium has now been formed, consisting at present of 2,180 specimens of dried plants.

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The effect of the severe drought could not of course fail to affect botanical operations. For the last five years the Island has suffered from an insufficient rainfall. It is calculated that the average rainfall should be 70 inches but for the years 1880 to 1884 inclusive only 56 inches fell. There was no improvement in 1884–85 and the result has been the failure of springs and streams and even of rivers.

At Castleton Gardens the rainfall was the lowest by 10·53 inches recorded during the last eleven years, and in consequence very little work in the way of improvement could be undertaken. It also led to a diminution in the number of plants distributed as compared with the previous years. Naturally planters were unwilling to run the risk of putting out plants during such a dry season. Still the distribution from the gardens was considerable. It consisted amongst other things of 163 bags of various seeds, five sacks of mahogany seed and 35 quarts of Liberian coffee seed, collected and sent to the head office for distribution; contributions of growing plants to several individuals in and out of the Island in exchange for other plants, and to several Botanical Gardens and societies. Besides these 14,288 plants were distributed and 528 cacao pods, equal to 16,000 seeds.

There were on hand at the end of the year available for distribution 40,000 plants established in bambû pots.

Of the work done by these gardens during the year may be mentioned a representative collection of exhibits formed and sent to the New Orleans Exhibition, and somewhat similar collections forwarded to the horticultural shows in Kingston and at Cumberland Fen.

Turning to some interesting details of event at the gardens it may be noticed that five out of the seven varieties of grafted olive trees were planted out and are doing well, seeming to stand the drought much better than most plants; the rest of these plants have been established in pots for distribution. The olive has been in the gardens for some years, but it does not appear to have flowered. I have been informed that the olives introduced into the Bahamas some years ago have exhibited a similar disposition.

The rubber trees in the gardens have made excellent progress, and the para rubber in particular has again produced a crop of seed.

The Cinchona plantation, at an elevation of from 4,500 to 6,500 feet above the sea in the Blue Mountains, has recently been the subject of much discussion in connexion with the proposed retrenchment scheme. It is satisfactory to know that if it is decided to sell the plantation "én bloc" or to sell only portions of it, the estate will go into the market in a thoroughly well kept condition.

The operations of the plantation have suffered by the drought, and it has not been considered desirable to extend cultivation. Work has therefore been limited to a proper maintenance and the supply of vacant places. The area actually planted in Cinchona

consists of 142¾ acres. Two small areas have been planted with tea, which promises to succeed.

The cocoanut plantation at the Palisadoes have suffered greatly from the almost (in their case) utter absence of rain, and the crop of nuts as a consequence has largely fallen.

The Hope nurseries are carrying out the object for which they were established to the satisfaction of the department and it is believed of the public.

The Kingston Parade Garden is well kept up, and continues to be a great boon to the inhabitants of Kingston who resort there continually in considerable numbers. It also affords to travellers passing through Kingston the opportunity of viewing a collection of our trees and flowers, native and acclimatised, on one spot, correctly labelled with their botanical and common names.

Education.

The following summary gives concisely the results of the educational work of the year as compared with the previous twelve months :—

Year.	Schools on Government List.	Schools passed on inspection.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in average attendance.	Per-centage in average attendance of number on Books.	Class of School.						Fees collected.	Grants in aid including Building Grants 1,500*l.* each year.
						I.	II.	III.		E.	F.†		
												£	£
1884-85	728	663	62,106	36,079	58·1	65	251	310	34	3	65	7,903	21,707
1883-84	701	663	57,557	33,294	57·8	60	216	333	51	4	36	7,143	20,353

* These schools had one third of the pass grant deducted for failure in arithmetic.

† Includes all schools that for any reason, such as recent opening, temporary closure, or the like, were not inspected, many being new and promising schools which will undoubtedly earn grants next year. Some slight errors in the figures for 1883-84 as given last year are now corrected.

It will be observed that there is a general progress in the educational work of the year. The number of scholars on the books has increased and what is of more consequence, the total number of pupils in average attendance is greater than in any year since 1882. A noticeable feature also is the increase of school fees, which is 4*s.* 4½*d.* per head for each scholar in average attendance, being ten per cent. higher than the previous year and 3*d.* per head higher than in 1880, a year of exceptional prosperity. This increase is of special interest at the present time when the subject of the expediency of either exacting a fee for schooling or of imposing an educational tax will doubtless engage the attention of the commission now sitting to consider the subject of elementary education in Jamaica, and it seems to show that the people as a body are recognizing their liability to pay for their children's education.

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It is gratifying to know that according to the inspectors' report fraudulent cases of tampering with registers on the part of teachers continue comparatively few. At the examination of teachers and students in training colleges held in December 1884, 12 teachers were examined, of whom six passed, making up the number of certificated teachers to 18, whose schools alone would give them 85*l.* per annum in fees and Government grant apart from other sources of income, such as private pupils, church work, &c.

The want of some provision for the special education of the women of this Colony as teachers has been so often a subject of complaint that it is highly satisfactory to be able to record the establishment of a female training college under the supervision of a thoroughly competent and specially selected lady superintendent. The institution was opened on the 1st September 1885, and the next year's report will present a fitting opportunity for speaking of the progress of this college which has commenced its career under favourable auspices. There are at present 20 pupils under training.

The buildings of the Jamaica High School were opened on the 9th of July 1885, and there are at present 26 scholars, 23 being on the foundation.

Immigration.

The operations of the Immigration Department during the year outside the ordinary duties of the department to the East Indian and Chinese already in the island were restricted to the importation and location of 507 statue adult East Indians who arrived by the ship "Hereford" on the 25th February from Calcutta, and the return to Calcutta in the ship "Bann" of 418 statute adults who left on the 14th June.

No applications were received for coolies during the year, but the Protector regards this as merely a temporary cessation of immigration attributable in part only to the fall in the price of sugar, and due to a great extent to temporary local causes resulting in a demand for work on the part of native laborers.

The Protector points out that although a very large number of sugar estates have gone out of cultivation during the last 40 years there has been no corresponding decrease in the total combined exports of sugar and rum. For example, in 1884 the exports were :—

Sugar - - -	34,444 hhds.
Rum - - -	11,631 phns.
Total - -	46,075 packages.

1884.

Sugar - - -	31,419 hhds.
Rum - - -	19,089 phns.
Total - -	50,508 packages.

Increase in 1884, 4,433 packages, and he argues from this circumstance that such results shown by the industry in which Indian coolies are chiefly employed give no reason to believe that the cessation of immigration will be lasting, notwithstanding the fall in the price of sugar.

In this view I cannot entirely concur, for as the population of the Island is steadily increasing, and as the demand for labour on the Panama Canal seems to have reached its maximum, I believe that in the near future Jamaica will require no importation of labourers from foreign countries.

The Chinese are said to have shown on the whole considerable improvement since last year, but though good agricultural labourers it seems that they cannot be depended upon for steady work.

The wages earned by the immigrants have been up to the average, and in many cases considerably more than the fixed Government rate.

It is gratifying to learn that the relations existing between the coolies and their employers are of a satisfactory nature.

The rate of mortality amongst the immigrants during the year was 2·74, which though considerably below the average for the last five years, was higher than the rates in 1882–83 or 1883–4.

The total number of immigrants in the Colony on 30th September 1885 is estimated at 14,230 of whom 1,995 were under indenture and 2,148 were completing their term of industrial residence, the remainder having already served that term.

Emigration.

Owing no doubt to the burning down of Colon in March 1885, and generally to the insurrection on the isthmus as well as to a reduced demand for labour on the canal, the emigration to the Isthmus of Panama during the year was considerably less than last year, and the returning labourers considerably more, as the following figures show:—

	Left.	Returned.
1883–84 - - - -	24,301	11,600
1884–85 - - - -	15,094	15,076

In consequence of the large numbers of Jamaica laborers then at Colon, I despatched Major O'Brien on a special mission to that place immediately after receiving information of the burning down of that town, to which I have already referred, to report on the condition of the people, which had been represented to me as very serious. It was found that the distress represented as existing consequent on that event had been much exaggerated.

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Large numbers of Jamaicans had immediately returned to Jamaica, and those that remained were able to get work, shelter, and food on the upper sections of the work beyond the town of Colon. During the months of April and May 4, 682 in all returned, while the emigrants numbered but 680; however the tide again turned in the following month, and thereafter, as had previously been the case, the outgoers materially exceeded those returning in each month.

I regret to have to record an attack made on the 3rd of May 1885 by a body of Columbian troops under command of their officers on natives of Jamaica at Culebra, a station on the line of the Canal, resulting, as far as has been ascertained, in the death of 18 and the wounding of 20 Jamaicans. Careful inquiry into the matter has shown that the attack was unprovoked.

This occurrence has led to the issue of a proclamation by me warning persons intending to emigrate to the Isthmus of the danger to which they may be subjected owing to the absence of protection for life and property in that State, of which this event gives marked evidence. Negotiations are in progress through the Foreign Office for obtaining compensation for the relatives of the persons killed and for the survivors who were wounded.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the bank have been as follows for the last 10 years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1876	5,431	243,171
1877	5,756	253,983
1878	6,002	273,620
1879	6,341	294,589
1880	7,297	333,970
1881	7,970	342,339
1882	9,543	324,847
1883	11,925	325,705
1884	13,602	350,546
1885	15,511	360,190

Thus maintaining the steady increase which has been apparent in the business done by the bank in former years.

In the above amount of deposits are included five deposit accounts for the following public funds:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Immigrants return passage fund -	11,563	0	0
Constabulary reward fund - -	299	0	0
Sinking funds - - - -	1,427	0	0
Constabulary pension fund - -	11	0	0
Smith and Beckford's charity - -	1,197	0	0

There were also 166 accounts for trusts, charities, chancery suits, administrator general, and bankrupt estates amounting to a total deposit of 27,753*l.* The remaining 15,340 accounts representing 317,940*l.*, are all ordinary savings bank deposits.

Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year, 9,445 were under 5*l.* and only 956 exceeded 100*l.*, thus showing that the bank largely meets the want it was designed to supply.

Of the deposits at 30th September 1885 20,061*l.* was invested in 3 per cent. consols, 321,905*l.* in colonial securities, other than those of Jamaica, bearing interest at varying rates of 4 to 4½ per annum, 4*l.* only was applied to the discounting of Planters' notes and 18,220*l.* remained in uninvested cash in the Colonial Bank and the Savings Bank chest. It is to be noted, however, that interest at the rate of 3 per cent. is allowed by the Colonial Bank on the amount of deposits exceeding the first 10,000*l.*

During the year 5,177 accounts were opened and 3,268 accounts were closed, while the number of deposits was 33,154 and, withdrawals 29,378 the respective values of these being 213,169*l.* and 213,438*l.*

It will thus be seen that the amount actually deposited was slightly less than the amount withdrawn, the increase in value on the amount on deposit shown in the first statement above being due to the allowed interest on deposits. Large sums were withdrawn for better investments and for building purposes, a considerable sum being also withdrawn as usual by coolies returning to India, while the severe drought which existed in many parts of the Island no doubt helped to swell the withdrawals to more than the usual extent.

No new sub-branches were opened during the year, but two district branches were established in the Eastern and Western districts of Kingston. These branches are opened once in each week from 4 to 6 p.m. in order to afford increased facilities to the working classes in the districts. The conveniences of withdrawing deposits by telegraphic notice and of making investments by postage stamps have been continued, as has also the practice of opening the Savings Bank in Kingston on Saturday nights to meet the wants of persons unable to conveniently attend at other times.

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors, together with miscellaneous expenditure, amounted to 12,621*l.*, while the revenue amounted to 13,352*l.*, thus showing a net profit of 731*l.* on the year's transactions. In the above expenditure is included a sum of 566*l.*, which is the cost of the remittance of 50,000*l.* hitherto uninvested to the Crown agents for investment in Colonial and other securities.

Trade.

The value of the imports in each of the last 10 years has been as follows :—

	£		£
1875–76	1,700,254	1880–81	1,392,699
1876–77	1,552,339	1881–82	1,321,962
1877–78	1,492,722	1882–83	1,625,411
1878–79	1,347,342	1883–84	1,568,639
1879–80	1,475,197	1884–85	1,487,833

The value in 1884–85 is less than in either of the two years immediately preceding, and is partly owing to the special importation in those two years of stocks such as were destroyed in the fire of 1882 in Kingston, although the value of these articles imported in the year under review was still above the normal rate. The falling off is mainly due to the diminution of importation of "Free" goods. The chief decreases, as compared with 1883–84, have been in dutiable goods as follows: ale, beer and porter, 7,342*l.*; bricks, 546*l.*; gunpowder, 895*l.*; salt, 450*l.*; shooks, hogshead, 1,831*l.*; shooks, puncheon, 2,328*l.*; tobacco manufactured, 877*l.*; wood (including shingles), 6,031*l.*; and in goods free of duty, in specie, 27,490*l.*; estates, supplies, 15,000*l.*; building materials, 4,700*l.*; steam engines, railway and street car materials, 32,200*l.* and ice, 1,730*l.*; while there have been increases under bread and biscuit, 1,797*l.*; corn, 2,526*l.*; fish, 13,673*l.*; flour, 20,087*l.*; meal, 7,568*l.*; oils, 3,700*l.*; peas and beans, 2,471*l.*; pork, 3,230*l.*; rice, 4,013*l.*; soap, 3,141*l.*; tongues, 1,331*l.*; wines, 2,473*l.* The decreases in gunpowder and railway necessaries are due to the completion of one of the lines of railway extension in the middle of the year, and that on ice to the continued satisfactory working of the local ice factory in Kingston.

The large increase under bread, corn, fish, flour, meal, peas and beans, of pork, and rice, are to be attributed to a great extent to the protracted drought which prevailed during the year in many parishes of the Island; and the consequent failure in the supply of ground provisions, but they are also no doubt partly attributable to the desire on the part of the people and their ability to pay for a better and more varied description of food, which was referred to in my last annual report. The scarcity of ground provisions available for consumption in the Island has been further increased by the flourishing trade in yams to Colon, which has lately sprung up in the parish of Hanover, which parish has not suffered to any great extent from drought. The total imports entered for consumption were drawn from the following countries in the percentages stated :—

United Kingdom - - - -	52·3
United States of America - - -	31·9
Dominion of Canada - - -	12·2
Other countries - - - -	3·6

The following table, showing the value of the articles imported which were specially freed from duty in 1867, is given in continuation of similar tables in previous reports:—

—	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1878-79.	1879-80	1880-81.	1881-82	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines -	18,152	15,360	14,735	8,857	7,306	2,802	20,709	10,380	14,199	12,604	9,268
Mills - -	5,803	5,128	1,643	2,115	5,724	2,661	1,702	2,203	1,563	2,516	818
Other machinery -	11,331	2,434	11,443	3,113	3,402	3,323	5,075	3,260	5,324	6,618	2,509
Pans for boiling sugar.	3,649	1,318	2,134	2,483	2,124	6,132	1,190	809	2,025	1,067	—
Pipes for fluids -	1,830	1,955	3,755	2,095	1,193	1,435	1,534	2,600	3,512	4,358	2,365
Stills - -	6,848	3,153	1,619	1,880	433	696	5,217	1,777	1,489	312	72
Shooks for all sorts	20,299	15,845	14,545	11,761	7,460	8,488	4,370	12,424	13,724	13,520	11,588
Staves -	21,650	11,816	19,503	6,040	4,524	10,519	3,299	10,645	6,148	10,590	9,052
Wood hoops	2,192	1,609	1,447	2,066	1,643	1,919	756	1,932	1,923	1,047	801
Iron, galvanized -	5,746	4,533	3,259	2,229	2,097	974	5,156	3,595	9,469	8,649	4,758
„ other manufactures.	—	5	—	381	—	1,344	4,964	14	433	1,109	3,755
Miscellaneous -	3,050	3,872	5,651	3,730	4,892	4,592	7,443	5,015	7,118	5,242	4,854
	100,550	67,028	79,734	46,750	40,798	64,885	61,415	54,654	66,927	67,632	49,840

The value of the exports in each of the last 10 years is shown below :—

Year.	Of Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1875–76 - -	1,440,131	76,884	1,517,015
1876–77 - -	1,419,625	39,004	1,458,669
1877–78 - -	1,165,145	35,560	1,210,705
1878–79 - -	1,262,869	94,702	1,357,571
1879–80 - -	1,427,144	85,834	1,512,978
1880–8 - -	1,104,407	74,187	1,178,594
1881–82 - -	1,471,917	77,141	1,549,058
1882–83 - -	1,365,868	103,578	1,469,446
1883–84 - -	1,350,900	133,089	1,483,989
1884–85 - -	1,181,203	227,645	1,408,848

This shows a decrease in value of 75,141*l.*, as compared with the year immediately preceding, and is a sign of the depression in the cane sugar industry which prevailed in the West Indies.

Jamaica has, however, not suffered from this cause so much as other Colonies possessing only one staple, as is evidenced by the fact that, although the decrease in sugar alone amounted to 120,619*l.*, and there were also the large decreases in bananas of 62,055*l.*, oranges 26,635*l.*, and pimento 38,929*l.*, yet there were

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increases under coffee of 58,440*l.*, rum 13,439*l.*, and logwood 18,033*l.*

The principal articles other than those just mentioned which show an increase are sticks 1,036*l.*, ebony 1,111*l.*, lignumvitae 1,034*l.*, and yams 891*l.*, and those which show a decrease, cocoa 2,638*l.*, cinchona 1,800*l.*, cocoanuts 2,765*l.*, lancewood spars 1,548*l.*, fustic 1,801*l.*, and horses and mules 2,118*l.*

The decrease in fruit is attributable partly to drought in certain parts of the Island and partly to increased competition of other fruit producing countries (notably Central America).

The exports from the Colony during the past six years were distributed in the following proportions :—

—	1879–80.	1880–81.	1881–82.	1882–83.	1883-84.	1884–85.
United Kingdom -	67·3	66·5	62·5	54·46	43·4	37·2
Dominion of Canada -	5·2	6·2	12·9	16·66	13·4	5·4
United States -	20·1	18·9	17·8	19·07	31·1	42·2
Other Countries -	7·4	8·4	6·8	6·81	12·1	15·2

The steady fall in the proportion of exports to the mother country shown for the last few years has continued, and the exports to the Dominion of Canada have gone back to the proportion recorded prior to 1881–82, in which year many sugar refineries were started in that country, thereby causing a new demand for our sugar.

The differences in the remaining articles may be attributed to fluctuation and also to the generally unseasonable weather that prevailed in many parts of the Island.

The value of the several articles of Island produce bear the following relative proportions to the total export value of those articles :—

—	1880–81.	1881–82.	1882–83.	1883–84.	1884–85.
Sugar - - -	30·5	41·7	40	32	26
Rum - - -	15·7	20·1	16	16	20
Coffee - - -	20·9	9·1	12	7	13
Logwood - -	11·9	6·2	8	10	13
Fruit - - -	4·	8·4	11	20	15
Pimento - - -	8·	7·7	7	6	4
Other - - -	9·	6·8	6	9	9

It will thus be seen that the value of the products of the cane is half that of the total exports from the Island, and that fruit has now taken its place as one of the staples of the country, its value being equal to that of coffee or logwood, and three to four times that of pimento.

The export of the principal staples for the last 10 years is shown in the following table :—

—	1875-76.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1878-79.	1879-80.
Sugar - - hhds.	29,074	30,569	26,066	29,151	32,117
Rum - - phns.	22,048	20,648	18,115	18,792	18,586
Coffee - - lbs.	8,649,049	9,532,887	9,411,662	10,832,127	10,188,897
Pimento - - lbs.	4,474,690	6,670,603	6,195,109	5,881,176	10,215,479
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	77,229	47,697	36,070	58,658	48,024
Ginger - - lbs.	1,613,764	1,097,863	908,603	769,636	889,847
Arrowroot - lbs.	21,152	3,514	4,599	7,982	4,480
Fruit, value - £	22,350	39,451	40,175	51,295	51,295

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—	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.
Sugar - - hhds.	21,056	38,392	30,783	29,427	24,986
Rum - - phns.	13,952	22,742	20,085	20,364	20,805
Coffee - - lbs.	9,846,096	7,418,638	9,448,100	4,295,994	9,033,606
Pimento - - lbs.	6,058,264	8,514,517	9,551,630	12,372,863	9,794,078
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	45,459	33,409	33,108	46,724	57,533
Ginger - - lbs.	751,494	608,384	836,889	1,359,321	1,379,056
Arrowroot - lbs.	1,888	5,116	2,515	3,655	1,008
Fruit, value - £	44,216	124,269	132,962	253,021	181,650

Agriculture.

The extent of land available for agricultural purposes is estimated at 2,317,692 acres, varying in condition of soil and climate to an extent which permits of the successful cultivation of products so varying in kind as the sugar cane at or near sea level, coffee and cacao at higher elevations, and cinchona and tea in the Blue Mountain range; the latter plant, however, being now only on its early trial as an article of commerce.

2. During the year under review the rainfall has been considerably under the average, and excessive droughts have occurred in some parishes, which has had considerable effect in retarding agricultural operations, coupled with the fact that drought more or less severe has been experienced for the last four or five years.

3. The returns of land under cultivation give the following acreage respectively in the two great staple products of cane and coffee, viz., 40,425 and 18,856 acres. The former was 449 acres under the average of the five years from 1880–81, and the latter for the same period 653 acres lower. In the quinquennial period referred to the acreage under cane has not in any year risen higher than 42,413 nor fallen below 39,715 acres. The acreage in coffee

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cultivation has also but slightly varied during the like period. In 1882–83 it was returned at 20,658 acres, the highest, and in 1880–81 at 18,458 acres, the lowest area. The export of the berry during the present year shows an increase in value of 58,440*l.*, the chief of the items which bear a favourable comparison with the exports of 1883–84.

To the protracted drought in many districts of the Island it is reasonable to ascribe in some degree the decrease in the value of fruit exported during the year. In the articles of bananas and oranges this amounted to 88,690*l.*

The pimento crop hardly forms a subject for notice under the head of agriculture, being self-sown, the only necessary adjunct to the productiveness of the groves being an occasional clearing; but it may be mentioned that in St. Anns, the parish chiefly producing it, the crop was a total failure.

The cultivation of cacao of which I reported last year as encouraging has further increased by 134 acres. The present area is 415 acres, and presents a marked contrast to the return of 27 acres in 1880–81. In that year 698 cwts. were exported, and in 1883–84 the export rose to 4,016 cwts.; this year it is some what less, or 3,028 cwt.

Of the minor products, it may be mentioned that ginger is returned as cultivated on 147 acres, a slight decrease on last year, but higher than the three years preceding; that arrowroot occupies but the limited extent of 8 acres; that corn (maize), of which large quantities (kiln dried) are imported from the United States, is grown to the small limit of 906 acres, nearly two-thirds of which are in the parish of St. Elizabeth. Cotton retains its place in the returns by reason of a nominal entry in the parish of Clarendon. Tobacco has fallen to a cultivation of 86 acres. This is much to be regretted, for it is the opinion of those best able to judge, native and foreign, that suitable soil and climate for the successful cultivation of the plant are to be found in many parts of the Island. Much more tobacco is grown than this return indicates, but it is chiefly by small settlers for their own use or for sale in the markets of the interior, where it is presented in a rudely cured state twisted into the form of a "rope," by which appropriate name it is distinguished.

The item of ground provisions (by which is meant principally yams, and cocos or eddoes) is returned as paying property tax to the extent of 67,017 acres. This cultivation may be regarded as peculiarly belonging to the holdings of the small settlers. Besides finding a ready sale in the places of their growth, these ground provisions are exported in large quantities to Colon and other places to which natives of Jamaica have emigrated in large numbers.

Guinea grass, the principal cultivated cattle feed in the Island, is returned as covering an area of 121,886 acres, or slightly above the average of the last five years. The largest areas in this grass occur in the parishes of St. Ann, Trelawny, St. Elizabeth, and S. Catherine.

In connexion with this head I may mention that the number of horsekind and horned cattle on which poll-tax was paid for 1884-85 was 140,923, not including cattle and horsekind used on estates, and exclusive of animals under one year of age.

Police.

The police force on the 30th September 1885 consisted of 1 inspector general, 14 inspectors, 4 sub-inspectors, 120 non-commissioned officers, and 572 men, showing a total of 711 of all ranks, supplemented by a rural police force consisting of 211 headmen, and 194 policemen.

The regular police were distributed as follows during the year: 152 were stationed in Kingston, 345 distributed over the 13 other parishes of the Island, and 75 were at the depôt at Spanish Town, where recruits are trained.

Eighty-seven constables were discharged during the year under review; of these, 14 were granted pensions and gratuities according as the circumstances warranted, and 37 were dismissed for misconduct.

The services rendered by the constabulary during the year as compared with previous years are as noted below:—

——	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information	8,454	6,053	4,849	5,994	5,106
Number of persons apprehended on warrants	2,734	2,111	1,783		1,394
Number of search warrants executed	161	108	104	102	64
Number of persons summoned	9,145	10,648	11,253	27,545	1,452
Number of persons subpœned	14,700	16,775	16,522		15,112
Number of seizures under revenue laws	994	904	745	663	587
Number of post-mortems ordered	596	464	457	287	270
Number of persons escorted	20,541	11,680	9,912	7,324	7,068

The criminal returns show 13 cases of murder, including child murder. Of these cases, four resulted in acquittal, four in conviction, and in two cases the accused were found to be insane and sent to the Lunatic Asylum. The cases of manslaughter during the year were 22, of which nine were acquitted, 6 convicted, and the remainder discharged or prosecution abandoned.

Of other offences against the person, that of "concealing birth," shows an increase of eight as compared with the previous year, of "attempt to poison" there was only one instance; there were two cases of "shooting with intent," and under "cutting and wounding" the number of 271 cases is returned, and 133 convictions were

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obtained. It is satisfactory to observe that this class of case is not on the increase as was feared by some persons might be a result from the present considerable intercourse with the Isthmus of Panama where crimes of violence are frequent.

"Offences against property committed with violence" give 122 cases, consisting chiefly of burglary.

Of "offences against property committed without violence" there were 2,662 apprehensions against 2,488 and 3,330 in 1883–84 and in 1882–83 respectively.

Under this head come "larceny of small stock," "simple larceny," and "prædial larceny." The former shows a decrease of 40 and the two latter increases of 98 and 18 respectively on the preceding year.

The crime of prædial larceny which some years ago assumed serious proportions may now be regarded as effectively suppressed. Notwithstanding the severe drought there has been practically no increase of it, and there were only two sentences of flogging for this crime during the year.

Two new police stations were established during the year, one at Claremont in St. Ann, and the other at Ewarton in St. Catherine.

The Inspector-General reports that the constabulary have been specially active in securing the observance of the laws relating to the prevention of accidents at small sugar mills, vaccination, the suppression of the dog nuisance in Kingston, and the sale of impure milk.

The operation of the system under which habitual criminals are kept under police surveillance and the improved discipline of the General Penitentiary has, year by year, decreased the number of such persons in the Island, and the decrease this year is specially marked, many of them having migrated to Colon.

A corporal and six constables were detailed for service at the Victoria Battery Port Royal at the request of the military authorities, and of this number three were subsequently transferred for duty at rocky Point Battery on the palisades.

Prisons.

The number of prisoners in custody in the prisons of the Island on the 30th September was 782, an increase of 32 on the preceding year, but a considerable decrease on previous years as shown below:—

1880–81 - - - -	1,212
1881–82 - - - -	938
1882–83 - - - -	811
1883–84 - - - -	750
1884–85 - - - -	782

The gross expenditure of all the prisons amounted to 16,926*l.* 19*s.* 1½*d.*, and the gross cash earnings to 4,400*l.* 4*s.* 4½*d.* The estimated value of labour yielding no return in money was

3,556*l.* 6*s.* The net cost of each prisoner has been 17*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* or 1*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* less than in 1883–84.

The male prisoners of the General Penitentiary were employed during the year in making bricks, burning lime, and quarrying stone, and the female prisoners were employed in washing and repairing clothing for public institutions.

A school was opened for the convicts at the Penitentiary in June, and is held for about two hours each evening after the work of the day.

Religious services have been conducted during the year by clergymen of the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Wesleyan and Baptist denominations, who are remunerated according to the number of convicts belonging to their respective creeds.

There were 19 deaths in all the prisons during the year, three being executions.

The death rate in the General Penitentiary was 18·89 per 1,000, that of the preceding year being 43·18 per 1,000.

The discipline of the institution continues to be satisfactory.

Two District and two Short Term prisons were closed in the year under review, viz., the Mandeville and Port Maria district prisons, and the Montego Bay and St. Ann's Bay Short Term prisons. By the closing of these prisons a saving of 612*l.* per annum has been effected after providing for the escort, &c. of prisoners and pensions to the persons whose offices were abolished.

A new diet scale for the Penitentiary was introduced at the commencement of the year, and the results have been very satisfactory both in the improved health of the prisoners and in a reduction in the cost of diets.

Vital Statistics.

If to the number of the population as found by the Census taken in April 1881 be added the natural increase since that period the Island population on the 30th September 1885 would stand at 620,867 but allowance must be made for the large number of labourers who have emigrated to the Isthmus of Panama to work on the canal, probably not less than 20,000 during that period.

The total natural increase for the year has been 9,058, which may be considered satisfactory in view of the withdrawal and continued absence of some 20,000 male adults.

The births registered in the year numbered 22,558, of which 11,226 were males and 11,332 females. The birth rate per 1,000 of the mean population being 37·8 an increase of 1,156 on the previous year. The number of illegitimate births was 13,521 or 59·9 per cent., a slight increase on the previous year when the rate was 58·9 per cent.

During the year 13,500 deaths were recorded, giving a rate of 22·6 per 1,000 of the mean population, being much the same as in 1883–84, when the rate was 22·7 per 1,000 of the population.

Of the total number of deaths registered only 2,449 or 81·8 per cent. were those in which medical aid had been obtained in the last sickness, and the consequent large number of uncertified deaths

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has prevented any very reliable conclusions being drawn from the registers as to the diseases responsible for the year's mortality. This wide spread neglect of the community in general to resort to competent medical aid is not confined to remote places beyond the reach of medical assistance but exists also in towns where such assistance can easily be procured.

It will be observed from the returns furnished by the Registrar General that in the year under review 2,995 marriages were registered as compared with 2,953 in 1883-84. Of this number 2,538 were bachelors and spinsters, 130 bachelors and widows, 243 widowers and spinsters, and 84 widowers and widows.

It is satisfactory to note that no falling off has occurred in the number of marriages performed in view of the extensive withdrawal of men at marriageable ages to the Isthmus of Panama. The registers show that 58·5 per cent. of the signatures of persons married were made by "mark." This is a slight improvement over the two previous years, when for each period the proportion was 59·2.

General.

The health of the community has not presented any exceptional features during the year, although the sick rate throughout the Island has been somewhat in excess of that of the preceding twelve months. The slight increase which occurred may be attributed to the unusual drought which very generally prevailed. The careful inspection of vessels arriving from the Isthmus, where during some period of the year there was much sickness, proved effectual in securing the community against any inroad of infectious disease.

2. The elections for members of parochial Boards took place for the first time during this year, and although much interest was evinced in the contests in no single instance did I hear of anything approaching disturbance.

3. The continued severe depression of the sugar industry is much to be deplored. The Legislative Council in the course of the session unanimously adopted a resolution to the following effect:—

"That in the opinion of the Council the paralysed condition of the sugar industry of the Colony calls for early relief if that industry is to be sustained, and this Council without in any way pledging itself to the future course requests the Governor to appoint five gentlemen as commissioners on behalf of the Government of this Island to visit Canada with the object of ascertaining what arrangements can be made with the Dominion Government on the basis either of confederation or reciprocity."

A commission was accordingly appointed consisting of four members, and proceeded to Canada in June, and immediately on arrival placed themselves in communication with the Dominion Government. Certain proposals were submitted by the commission to a committee of the cabinet in the direction of admitting certain articles, the growth and produce of Canada, free of duty into Jamaica, on the understanding that sugar and fruit the growth

and produce of Jamaica should be admitted free into the Dominion. Unfortunately for the mission the time of the Dominion Government was so urgently taken up with sessional and other work as to preclude any definite interchange of opinion, and the meeting was adjourned and did not re-assemble as the members of the Commission could not remain absent from Jamaica for a lengthened period, and although further communication has been invited from the Dominion Government none has been received. It is, however, believed that the Secretary of State would hardly have accorded sanction to an agreement formed on the basis desired by the Commission,—namely, that the arrangement between Canada and Jamaica should not be extended by Canada to other West Indian Colonies, nor is it likely that Canada would have assented to any such restriction.

It is hoped, however, that the mission will not be altogether without result, as the conferences which the commissioners held with the leading chambers of commerce in Canada may be of use in developing commercial relations between the Dominion and this Colony.

The Savings Bank returns show a continued moderate increase in the amount of deposits, and this may be welcomed as evidence of the thrift of the people as a body, and can certainly not be disregarded in arriving at a conclusion as to the prosperity of the working classes, 9,445 investments are under 5*l.* each and these may be presumed to belong to a large extent to these classes.

The rainfall has been under the average this year as well as last year, and in some parts of the Island drought has been severely felt. The only remedy, that of forming proper tanks or ponds to serve in time of need, is greatly neglected, and in consequence there has been much distress. I have endeavoured to arouse the public to some action in the matter, but unless at the actual time when there is suffering from drought there is unfortunately too much apathy on the part of the people, and very little has been done to guard against the effect of future droughts.

A noticeable event evincing the loyalty of the people of this country to the Crown occurred during the year at a time when war appeared to be imminent in the spontaneous tender of their services by a number of gentlemen to serve in a Volunteer Militia, and it gave me much pleasure to approve of their organization into corps in several parishes of the Island under the provisions of the Jamaica Militia Law. Kingston as was to be expected has taken the lead in the movement. The city has now a corps consisting of a battery of artillery, a company of mounted rifles, and two companies of infantry, consisting of 250 of all ranks. An officer of the regular army has been appointed adjutant, and drill goes on regularly. Small corps of mounted rifles or infantry are now forming in other parishes.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN,
Governor.

King's House, Jamaica,
25th May 1886.

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD.

No. 9.

Governor Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Government House,
MY LORD, July 26, 1886.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the past year, and to submit the subjoined report thereon.

Taxes and Duties.

To meet certain large and unforeseen expenditure, notably the claims for compensation for damages arising out of an unfortunate accident on the railway in the early part of 1885, and also the deficit which was expected in the budget for the present year, it was found necessary to repeal the Customs Duties Ordinance of 1879 and to enact another (No. 21 of 1885), increasing the duty on rum and other spirits, tobacco, malt liquors, wines, cocoanut oil, and soap, and imposing an ad valorem duty of 4 per cent. on earthern and glass ware, furniture of all kinds, and on all other goods not previously liable to duty, with the following exceptions:—

Books, bullion, coke and coals, cocoa unmanufactured, coffee, cocoanuts, cotton unmanufactured, eggs, fish of all kinds, fish glue, farinaceous substances unrated, fruit and ground provisions, hides, raw, ice, lime, live stock unrated, machinery for the manufacture of produce, meats of all kinds, manures, specie, patent fuel, fresh vegetables not prepared or manufactured, grain, dholl, dried peas, beans, and growing plants and trees of all descriptions.

The new tariff came into operation on the 23rd November 1885.

The export duty on produce, the entire proceeds of which are carried to the credit of the Immigration Fund, was by the Ordinance 21 of 1884 reduced from 6*s.* per hogshead of sugar to 4*s.* a corresponding reduction (one third) being made in the duty in respect of molasses, rum, cocoa, and coffee.

The duty received in 1885 amounted to 19,984*l.* as against 27,544*l.* in 1884.

On the 22nd September 1885 an Ordinance (No. 14) was passed, increasing from the 1st January 1886 the export duty on asphalte, pitch, and petroleum.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the year was 429,307*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* derived principally from :—

	£
Customs - - -	154,383
Rum duty - - -	86,060
Immigration - - -	31,206
Land sales - - -	15,583
Licenses - - -	21,753
Taxes - - - -	29,557
Postage - - -	5,729
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of Court	7,685
Reimbursements in aid - -	15,320
Railway traffic receipts - -	48,011

A comparison of the revenue of 1884 and 1885 shows a decrease in that of the past year of 46,751*l.* chiefly under the following heads :—

	£
Customs - - -	18,269
Rum duty - - -	10,744
Immigration - - -	9,470
Reimbursements in aid - -	1,632
Government tramways - -	1,455
Railway traffic receipts - -	3,354

The only source of revenue which showed a marked increase as compared with the previous year, was "land sales," which yielded 1,572*l.* in excess of the receipts in 1884.

The expenditure of 1885 was 443,920*l.* 19*s.* 1½*d.* as compared with 471,189*l.* 14*s.* 11½*d.* in 1884.

The principal savings were effected under the following heads :—

	£
Establishments - - -	2,025
Conveyance of mails - -	1,413
Immigration - - -	30,276
Public works - - -	23,824

On the other hand the expenditure of 1885 considerably exceeded that of 1884 on the following services :—

	£
Education - - -	1,042
Miscellaneous services - -	9,905
Drawbacks and refund of duties -	3,416
Railway working expenses -	18,780

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With reference to this last item of excess, it must be mentioned that the accident account is responsible for 10,585*l.*, and that new rolling stock, the necessity for which was also principally attributable to the unfortunate casualty of January 1885, and for which provision had been made in the estimates for 1886, was supplied before the close of 1885, and consequently charged in the accounts for that year. Its cost was 4,243*l.*

In his annual report the Registrar General estimates the population of the Colony at the end of 1885 at 171,914. Assuming the following to be the only sources of revenue which can properly be considered taxation, local taxes for municipal purposes not included:—

	£
Customs (less drawbacks) - -	144,936
Rum duty - - -	86,060
Licenses - - -	21,753
Taxes - - - - -	29,557
Fees of office - - -	3,537
Legacy duty - - -	2
Yielding the sum of -	285,845

The taxation of the Colony in 1885 per head of population may be taken at 1*l.* 13*s.* 3½*d.*

Local Revenues.

The revenue of the borough of Port-of-Spain was in 1885 17,040*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, and its expenditure 16,635*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* The figures under the same heads for 1884 were 17,120*l.* 5*s.* 4½*d.* and 17,182*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* The revenue is principally yielded by a house rate of 5 per cent. on the annual rent or value of property within the borough, which in 1885 gave 8,413*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* Dues and rents from markets, 4,366*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.*, and fees for cab, cart, porters, hucksters and meat shop licenses yielded 1,495*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

The revenue of the borough of San Fernando was 5,721*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, and the expenditure 5,650*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* as compared with 4,875*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* and 5,576*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* in 1884.

The income of that municipality is derived chiefly from the same sources as that of Port-of-Spain, viz., house rate at 7 per cent., 2,289*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; meat market and shops, 345*l.* 3*s.* 1½*d.*; and licenses, 389*l.* 5*s.* The dues levied under the authority of Ordinance 10 of 1853, section 64, on goods landed on and shipped from the San Fernando wharf also yielded 1,819*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

Public Debt.

No new debt was contracted in 1885.

The total amount of the Colony's debt at the close of that year was 580,920*l.*, of which 566,920*l.* is for railway construction, 4,000*l.* is the balance of the loan guaranteed by the Government

raised for the construction of the San Fernando tramroad, which was in 1878 vested in the Queen, and 10,000*l.* for the improvement of the Port-of-Spain water supply.

Of the debt, 4,000*l.* bears interest at 6 per cent. 235,320*l.* at 5 per cent. and the remainder at 4 per cent.

Public Works.

The total expenditure under this head in 1885 was 48,981*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* classified as follows :—

	£
On roads and bridges - - -	37,443
,, works and repairs - - -	10,110
Miscellaneous - - - -	1,428

The expenditure in 1884 amounted to 72,806*l.* 4*s.* 0½*d.* No new work of any magnitude was undertaken during the past year.

Legislation.

The subjoined is a list of the titles of the Ordinances (24) enacted during 1885 :—

No. 1.—For regulating the sale of cocoa.

No. 2.—To authorise the issue of new debentures in exhange for old debentures issued under Ordinance No. 7 of 1873 as amended by Ordinance No. 15 of 1873.

No. 3.—To provide for the enforcement and payment of penalties recoverable against a certain company, called the Tramways Company of Trinidad, Limited.

No. 4.—To impose a tax on lands and houses.

No. 5.—To amend the law as to malicious injury to property.

No. 6.—To amend the Immigration Ordinances.

No. 7.—Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance, 1884.

No. 8.—To amend the law as to premises licensed for the retail of intoxicating liquors.

No. 9.—With reference to the San Fernando Waterworks.

No. 10.—To make provision for the destruction of locusts.

No. 11.—To provide for the collection of certain fees by means of stamps.

No. 12.—To amend the Immigration Ordinance, 1885.

No. 13.—To impose a license duty in respect of the cultivation of ganja.

No. 14.—For varying the duties on asphalt, pitch, and petroleum.

No. 15.—To provide for the whipping of juvenile offenders in certain cases.

No. 16.—To enable the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Port-of-Spain to sell a certain parcel of land in the ward of Chagwanas.

No. 17.—To vary certain duties of Customs.

No. 18.—To amend the Ordinance No. 10 of 1853 intituled An Ordinance for the regulation of municipal corporations in this Island.

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No. 19.—For raising funds in aid of immigration for the year 1886.

No. 20.—Appropriation Ordinance, 1886.

No. 21.—To repeal certain duties of Customs and to raise other duties in lieu thereof.

No. 22.—To increase the duty on rum and other spirits distilled in the Colony.

No. 23.—To amend "The Port-of-Spain Waterworks Ordinance, 1883."

No. 24.—For the better organization and discipline of the police force.

The prædial larceny of cocoa being an offence which was very prevalent and very difficult to detect or prevent, the Ordinance No. 1 was enacted requiring all dealers in cocoa to be licensed, and imposing such restrictions on the sale and purchase of that article as make its disposal when stolen a matter of some difficulty.

Ordinance 4 provides for a triennial assessment of lands and houses not within the boroughs of Port-of-Spain and San Fernando instead of the annual assessment theretofore required.

Under Ordinance 5 the penalty for the malicious injury of machinery used in agricultural operations and for maliciously damaging property and endangering life by means of explosive substances was increased.

Ordinance 10 conferred on the Government certain powers for facilitating the destruction of locusts which invaded the Colony from the coasts of Venezuela in large numbers, and entailed considerable expenditure of public money in their extinction.

Ordinance 13 was enacted to check the cultivation and use of ganja, the evil effects arising from the smoking of that drug having been proved to be productive of much harm, especially among the Indian population.

At the request of the Borough Council of San Fernando, the Government took over the schools hitherto maintained by that authority, and the Ordinance No. 18 was enacted to give effect to the arrangement under which an annual contribution of 500*l.* towards the cost of their upkeep was to be paid by the municipality.

The financial position of the Government rendered necessary the enactment of Ordinances Nos. 21 and 22, increasing the Customs tariff and the duty on rum and other spirits distilled in the Colony.

Political Franchise.

The number of registered electors in the borough of Port-of-Spain at the date of the last election was 668 and in San Fernando 128.

The number of voters at the last election was in the first-named town 209 and in the other 60.

Councils and Assemblies.

Major Newman, North Staffordshire Regiment, as senior officer in command of the troops, was sworn as a member of the Executive Council on the 17th December 1885 in the place of Major Bowles, of the same regiment, whom he relieved.

In the Legislative Council, on Sir Joseph Needham's retirement in October, Mr. Horace FitzGerald, the first Puisne Judge, was appointed to act as Chief Justice. Mr. Pyne, the Receiver General, died on the 28th June, and his seat at the Council was filled to November by Mr. H. W. Chantrell, the Auditor General, who was appointed to act as Receiver General, and, on that gentleman's departure on leave, by Mr. A. C. Ross, the Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Department and Clerk of Councils, who succeeded him in the acting appointment.

Civil Establishment.

There were few changes of importance during the year. Sir A. E. Havelock assumed the Government on the 20th January and left on the 3rd October on his promotion to the Government of Natal. From that date to the 9th October, the date of my arrival, the Government was administered by Mr. David Wilson, the Commissioner of the Northern Province and Sub-intendant of Crown lands, who at the time was acting as Colonial Secretary during Mr. Bushe's absence on leave.

Mr. Pyne, the Receiver General, died on the 28th June. His successor, Mr. C. B. Hamilton, did not take up his appointment until the 5th February 1886, the office being in the interim presided over successively by Mr. H. W. Chantrell, Auditor General, and Mr. A. C. Ross, Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Department and Clerk of Councils.

Mr. Fitt, the Registrar General, was superannuated on the 30th April, and advantage was taken of the vacancy in the office of Registrar of the Supreme Court, caused by the death of Mr. F. H. Hamblin, to amalgamate the two departments, Mr. W. Llewellyn Lewis, the Stipendiary Magistrate of Caroni, being appointed to their charge with a salary of 700*l.* per annum.

Sir Joseph Needham retired from the office of Chief Justice on the 3rd October, and was succeeded by Sir John Gorrie, who took up his appointment in January of the present year.

The Rev. H. Warlop, Roman Catholic curé of San Juan, died.

On the transfer of Mr. Lewis to the office of Registrar General and Registrar of the Supreme Court, Mr. J. A. Harragin was appointed Stipendiary Magistrate for the county of Caroni, and the office of Commissioner of the Southern Province held by him was abolished, Mr. J. L. O'Connor, Warden of Tacarigua, being appointed Warden of the Naparima ward union at a salary of 600*l.* Other changes were also made in the Warden's department, effecting a reduction of its cost by 1,450*l.*

TRINIDAD.

Pensions.

The following new pensions were granted in 1885:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. H. A. Fitt, late Registrar General -	314	5	9
Mr. F. P. Hoare, late Receiver General -	20	0	0
Mr. P. Vincent, late Government teacher - - - -	29	3	1
Sir Joseph Needham, late Chief Justice	900	0	0
Mr. L. Rostant, late Warden of St. Ann's - - - -	377	6	6
Making a total of -	1,640	15	4

The following lapsed:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Chas. Hobson, late Registrar of the Supreme Court - - -	270	0	0
Mr. W. Hall, late landing waiter at San Fernando - - - -	50	5	6
Mr. J. Fuller, late clerk to the judges -	110	0	0
Amounting to -	430	5	6

The total payments for pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities amounted to 6,595*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* as against 6,582*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* in 1884.

Foreign Consuls.

Señor Joachin Machada succeeded Señor Fortique in October as consul for the United States of Venezuela.

The exequatur empowering Mr. Hugo Hoffmann, who had been provisionally recognised on the 14th December 1883, to act as consul for the German Empire received Her Majesty's signature on the 28th March.

On the death of Mr. A. Schöner in December, Mr. C. Schöner was provisionally recognised as consul for Sweden and Norway.

Population.

The number of births registered during the past year was 6,092, and the deaths 4,850, or an excess of births over deaths of 1,242.

The number of marriages registered was 580.

The population being estimated at 171,914, the birth rate, death rate, and marriage rate per 1,000 were 35·43, 28·21, and 3·37 respectively.

The number of marriages was less than in any of the three preceding years, and with an ever increasing population this is a matter for regret.

Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.

The number of depositors in the savings banks at Port-of-Spain and San Fernando on the 31st December 1885 was 3,490, and the amount of their deposits 89,496*l.* On the 31st December 1884 the amount was 87,378*l.*

The deposits during the past year amounted to 70,354*l.* and the withdrawals to 68,366*l.*

1,706 Indian immigrants were introduced from Calcutta during 1885, and 614 who had completed their term of industrial residence were repatriated at the Colony's expense. The savings taken back to India by these people amounted to 12,153*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*

Education.

The number of boys attending the Queen's Royal College was 60, the same as in 1884; but in the attendance at the College of the Immaculate Conception there was an increase of 26 as compared with the previous year, the number being 193.

The attendance at the boys' model and training school was 198, and at the similar institution for girls, 142.

These figures show in the first case no increase or decrease, and in the second a decrease of 34 as compared with the attendance in 1884.

In the boys' department of the Port-of-Spain Eastern School the attendance was 162 and the girls and infants 146. The number on the roll of the Port-of-Spain Western School was 51 boys and 195 girls, making a total of 246.

Towards the maintenance of these two schools the Borough Council of Port-of-Spain contribute 500*l.* per annum. The fees collected thereat amounted to 238*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* The cost of their upkeep was, in 1885, 985*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, or, deducting the amounts above mentioned, 246*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*

The number of primary schools in the country districts wholly supported by the Government was 49, the number of children attending them 3,675, 2,260 being boys and 1,415 girls, and their cost 6,996*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* As against this fees were received from the pupils to the amount of 846*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*

The number of denominational schools assisted from public funds was 59, of which 23 were Roman Catholic, 13 Church of England, 22 Coolie Mission, and 1 Wesleyan. The attendance at these was returned at 5,328, 2,782 being boys and 2,546 girls, and the amount of the Government contributions 3,372*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

There are two Orphan Asylums and Private Industrial Schools, one being Roman Catholic, with 125 inmates, of whom 62 are boys and 63 are girls; and the other Protestant, with 58, 24 boys and 34 girls. The expenses of these institutions in 1885 were 1,750*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* and 682*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* respectively of which 1,160*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* and 561*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* was contributed by the Government.

TRINIDAD.

This return also includes 17 Presbyterian Coolie and Estate's schools, with 404 boys and 137 girls on their rolls. The Government contribution to these was 250*l.*

Exclusive of the attendance at private schools, of which no estimate can be formed, the number of children under tuition in the Colony, as shown by the returns, is 11,003 and the expenditure under the head of education, exclusive of the salaries of the masters of the Royal College the teachers of the model schools, and the staff of the Education Office, was 16,199*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*

Imports and Exports.

The value of imports in 1885 was 2,241,478*l.* as against 3,083,870*l.* in 1884, and the duty received in respect thereof 151,828*l.* as compared with 169,828*l.*

The subjoined table shows the value of the imports in 1884 and 1885:—

Country whence Imported.	1884.	1885.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
From the United Kingdom -	887,011	654,704	232,307
„ British Colonies -	254,339	240,523	13,816
„ Foreign Countries -	1,942,520	1,346,251	596,269
Total - - -	3,083,870	2,241,478	842,392

or a decrease of 27·31 per cent.

I also subjoin a table showing the decrease in the import trade, with the principal countries included under the heading "Foreign Countries":—

Country.	1884.	1885.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
France - - - -	157,695	85,288	72,407
Germany - - -	32,625	19,972	12,653
Spain and her Colonies (not West Indian) - - -	16,073	9,593	6,480
United States - - -	425,572	394,496	31,076
Danish West Indies - -	13,623	10,496	3,127
Venezuela - - -	1,265,538	788,454	477,084

The figures representing the value of the imports from Venezuela, however, include the value of gold from the mines at Guayana, which is shipped through this Colony, amounting in 1884 to 1,046,020*l.* and in 1885 to 651,398*l.*

Of the imports in 1885, the value of the goods which were liable to and paid duty was 981,246*l.* Of those liable to duty, but warehoused for exportation and transhipped, 73,835; and of those admitted free of duty, 1,186,397.

The value of the exports in 1885 was 2,246,664*l.* as against 2,769,727*l.* in 1884 or a decrease of 18·88 per cent. The subjoined table shows the countries to which exports were made in 1884 and 1885, and distinguishes between goods the produce and manufactures of the Colony and those which were imported:—

Countries.	Colonial Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom -	499,795	550,310	363,495	636,110	863,290	1,186,420
British Colonies -	66,490	17,013	25,305	36,273	91,795	53,286
Foreign Countries	708,500	739,540	1,106,142	267,418	1,814,642	1,006,958
Total -	1,274,785	1,306,863	1,494,942	939,801	2,769,727	2,246,664

I also append a list of the quantities and value of the staple products of the Colony shipped in 1884 and 1885:—

Article.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.
			£	£
Sugar - - Tons	60,961	63,679	642,255	684,675
Molasses - - Galls.	2,245,650	2,416,761	54,953	45,385
Rum - - „	43,851	72,525	4,658	7,257
Cocoa - - Lbs.	12,908,770	13,729,565	380,878	385,901
Coffee - - „	14,960	20,270	396	430
Cocoanuts - -	11,276,339	9,645,700	42,748	28,624
Asphalt epuré - Tons	6,562	6,731	13,124	13,456
„ raw - „	33,383	28,505	33,383	28,505
Bitters - - Galls.	32,381	32,240	32,381	32,240

From the above table it will be observed that, except in the case of cocoanuts and raw asphalt, the native exports of 1885 considerably exceed those of 1884.

Deducting from the value of the imports and exports of 1884 and 1885 that of the gold from the mines of Venezuela which passed through the Colony, the comparison will stand thus:—

Imports

	£
1884 - - - - -	2,037,850
1885 - - - - -	1,590,080

Exports.

	£
1884 - - - - -	1,723,304
1885 - - - - -	1,595,361

In connexion with this decrease in the Colony's trade I deem it my duty to again press upon the attention of Her Majesty's Government the serious harm that has resulted to the commerce of the Island from the differential duty of 30 per cent. levied against it by the Venezuelan Government under the Decree of Congress dated 4th of June 1881. In his Despatch, of the 1st of May 1885, Lord Derby informed my predecessor that negotiations with Venezuela for a full treaty precluding differential treatment of British Colonies were then proceeding, but it would appear that those negotiations have so far been attended with no success.

I append a statement of the export trade with Venezuela for the four years preceding and the fours years following the imposition of this duty. From this the loss which this Colony's trade has sustained will be apparent.

1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
£ 252,404	£ 335,327	£ 319,660	£ 434,566	£ 315,476	£ 355,121	£ 305,798	£ 175,812

Shipping.

The total tonnage entered and cleared in 1885 was 1,069,121 as against 1,048,959 in the previous year.

The subjoined abstract of the shipping returns for 1883, 1884, and 1885 will show the rate of increase and also the extent to which sailing vessels are being replaced by steamers in the shipping trade of the Colony.

Description of Vessel.	No. of Vessels entered and cleared.			Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.		
	1883.	1884.	1885.	1883.	1884.	1885.
Sailing - -	4,128	4,335	3,907	271,073	308,500	294,914
Steam - -	538	626	677	659,995	740,459	774,207
Total -	4,666	4,961	4,584	931,068	1,048,959	1,069,121

The number of British sailing vessels entered and cleared in 1885 was 1,339 and their tonnage 127,847.

Of foreign sailing vessels the number was 2,568 and the tonnage 167,067.

The number of British steamers entered and cleared was 454 and their tonnage 597,403; while of foreign steamers the number was 223 and the tonnage 176,804.

Grants of Land.

The total number of acres of Crown lands sold in 1885 was 8,171, or 2,161 acres in excess of the sales in 1884, and the amount realised was 15,583*l.*

In respect of these lands 599 royal grants were issued, of which 598 were for parcels of less than 100 acres each.

The total number of acres of Crown land alienated at the end of 1885 was 357,603. The area of the Colony being estimated at 1,120,000, there remain undisposed of 762,397 acres, comprising undoubtedly some of the most fertile tracts of the island.

Gaols and Prisoners.

Four thousand four hundred and eleven prisoners were committed during 1885, and the daily average number in prison was 621.

The total cost of the prison department, including the pay of the staff, was 10,053*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, and the value of the prisoners' labour was 6,170*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, from which it would appear that the gross cost to the Colony per prisoner per day was $10\frac{1}{2}d.$ and the net cost 4*d.*

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during 1885 was 17,476. In respect of these offences 9,855 persons were summarily convicted, 4,326 discharged for want of prosecution or evidence, 3,084 were acquitted, and 211 committed for trial in the Supreme Court.

In the superior courts 120 persons were convicted, 51 were acquitted, 1 prisoner was found insane, and 34 cases were thrown out for want of prosecution.

Of the convictions in the magistrates' courts 1,476 were for offences against the person, 127 for prædial larceny, 973 for offences against property other than prædial larceny, 2,379 for offences against the Masters and Servants' Acts, including breaches of the labour laws by indentured coolies, and 4,900 for other offences.

The convictions in superior courts comprised 39 for offences against the person, including 7 cases of wife murder by Indian immigrants, 42 for offences against property other than prædial larceny, and 39 for other offences.

Charitable and Literary Institutions.

As regards hospitals and asylums, the returns for 1885 are as follows:—

Colonial Hospital, Port-of-Spain.

Admissions during the year - -	4,392
Deaths - - - - -	519
Discharges - - - -	3,829
Inmates on 31st December - -	510

San Fernando Hospital.

Admissions during the year - -	2,031
Deaths - - - - -	264
Discharges - - - -	1,656
Inmates on 31st December - -	241

Lunatic Asylum.

Admissions during the year - -	114
Deaths - - - - -	51
Discharges - - - -	46
Inmates on 31st December - -	316

Leper Asylum.

Admissions during the year - -	44
Deaths - - -	28
Discharges - - - -	13
Inmates on 31st December - -	144

House of Refuge.

Admissions during 1885 - - -	86
Deaths - - - - -	52
Discharges - - - -	30
Inmates on 31st December - -	179

This last-mentioned institution was established under Ordinance No. 9 of 1867 for the reception of incurables and indigent sick from the country districts.

In addition to the establishments above named, which are entirely supported by Government, the Borough Council of Port-of-Spain maintains an asylum, which at the end of the year contained 57 inmates, but the accommodation it affords is wholly inadequate to the wants of the town, and there are in the public institutions many patients whose maintenance is properly chargeable to the municipality.

There are in Port-of-Spain two other small denominational asylums maintained by their respective churches, one being Roman Catholic, with 18 inmates on the 31st December; and the other Protestant (for females only), with 15 inmates on the same date.

Another charity called the "Daily Meal Society," and supported by voluntary contributions, is also carried on in Port-of-Spain in connexion with the Church of England. By this society a meal is furnished daily to an average of 42 persons without distinction as to creed.

General Remarks.

The peace of the Colony was marred by no disturbance, and the carnival and Mohurrum festivals, at both of which the use of firearms had unfortunately to be resorted to in 1884, passed off without event.

The Island happily was visited by no epidemic disease, and the public health was good.

The crops exceeded those of 1884, but the depression of the sugar market, caused and nurtured by the system of foreign bounty, still continues with little or no immediate prospect of relief, and threatening as it does the ruin of the industry on which the Colony is mainly dependent for its support occasions the most gloomy forebodings as to the future.

Besides the decrease in the value of the imports, the large falling off (12,534*l.*) in the receipts for rum duty, which may be taken as the gauge of the spending powers of the labouring classes, clearly proves that the depression above alluded to is now felt by all.

The cultivation of cocoa is largely on the increase, and I am using my best endeavours to introduce and stimulate minor industries, but the operations in connexion with the growth and preparation of the former are so simple and inexpensive that no large contribution to the revenue, unless derived from direct taxation, can ever be expected therefrom, while some considerable time must of necessity elapse before any of the present minor industries can become a factor of importance in the permanent support of the Colony,

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

The Right Hon.
The Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 10.

Governor R. T. GOLDSWORTHY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Government House, Belize,
July 24, 1886.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Blue Book for 1885 together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROGER TUCKFIELD GOLDSWORTHY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c.

Taxes, Duties, and other Sources of Revenue.

In the various taxes and duties which constitute the source from which the revenue of the Colony was derived in the year 1885, now under consideration, no altteration was made from what existed in previous years till on the 31st October an Ordinance, No. 16 of 1885, "for levying duties of customs and excise" was passed, repealing No. 9 of 1878.

The scope of this Ordinance was to decrease the number of articles on which an "*ad valorem*," duty was paid and to put them on the list of those paying specific duty. The following are the articles brought on to the specific list:—Bacon and hams, bread or biscuits, butter, candles, cheese, coffee, cocoa, fish, flour, gunpowder, hay and oats, lard, oils, opium, rice, salt, soap, spirits, turpentine, vinegar, whilst the duty on the under-mentioned articles was increased:—

Beef and pork per barrel of 200 lbs., from 2*s.* to 4*s.*
Tobacco per lb., from 2½*d.* to 4*d.*
Wines, still, per gallon, from 1*s.* to 2*s.*

Tea, however, was reduced from 1*s.* to 5*d.* per lb., and the following additions were made to the free list:—Bricks, roofing-

slates and tiles, cement and lime, drain pipes, iron roofing, iron fencing, palings for fencing, pitch and tar.

Lumber and shingles were taken off the free list, bricks being added in lieu thereof, in order to encourage the use of the latter for building purposes.

The excise duty was also altered from 3*s.* on the proof gallon "and so in proportion for any greater strength of proof on any "quantity greater or less than a gallon," to 5*s.* on the liquid gallon; whilst, as regards the storage of gunpowder, instead of "a yearly charge of 8*s.* per annum or the fractional part of a "year, and after the first year a charge of 4*s.* per annum or the "fractional part of a year," it was altered to "1*s.* per month or "fractional part thereof."

These various changes have acted beneficially from a financial point of view and will tend to lessen the probability of success in defrauding the revenue by those unscrupulous enough to attempt the same.

Fees.

These are the same as in previous years, with the following additions:—

The scale for wine, beer, and spirits licenses to be granted by Ordinance No. 18 of 1885, which repealed sections 4 to 11 inclusive, and sections 14, 26, and 60 of Ordinance No. 12 of 1878, is given below, together with the old scale for comparison:—

OLD.	£	s.	d.
For a publican's general license:—			
Belize, Corosal, Orange Walk, Northern Stann Creek, or All Pines, or within three miles of the police courts thereof, yearly	40	0	0
Elsewhere - - yearly	15	0	0
For a spirit merchant's license - - yearly	10	0	0
For a vessel license - yearly	10	8	0
For a malt and cider license:—			
Belize, Corosal, Orange Walk, Northern Stann Creek, or All Pines, or within three miles from the police courts thereof yearly	15	0	0
Elsewhere - - yearly	6	0	0
For a shop liquor license yearly	16	0	0
For a temporary license per day	1	0	0

NEW.	£	s.	d.
For a publican's general license:—			
Belize, 1st class - yearly	100	0	0
„ 2nd „ - „	60	0	0
Corosal, Orange Walk, Northern Stann Creek, All Pines, Mullins River, and Punta Gorda, and within three miles of the district courts thereof yearly	60	0	0
Elsewhere - yearly	30	0	0
Hotel license - „	40	0	0
For a spirit merchant's license - - yearly	20	0	0
For a vessel license - „	20	0	0
For a malt and cider license yearly	20	0	0
For a shop liquor license:—			
Belize - - yearly	30	0	0
Any other town - „	20	0	0
For a temporary license per day	1	0	0

BRITISH HONDURAS.

The result shown so far has been satisfactory. The number of grog shops, more especially those of an inferior description, has decreased, whilst the amount received in respect of licenses has increased to the extent of 652*l.* 5*s.*, or nearly one third.

Ordinance No. 21 of 1885 brought under legislative control "every carriage licensed or let for hire," the owners of which are compelled to take out a license for the same at a cost of 12*s.* It further provided that all drivers of such carriages must be duly licensed, the fee for which is fixed at 4*s.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

The estimated revenue for this year was 49,740*l.*, whilst the actual receipts amounted to 52,245*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, showing an increase of 2,505*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*

The increments and fallings off are shown in the subjoined table:—

Increase.	£	s.	d.	Decrease.	£	s.	d.
Customs	799	0	8	Land revenue	318	12	0
Excise	236	6	1	Port and harbour dues	716	3	9
Fees of office	125	15	3				
Land tax	270	2	2				
Liquor licenses	647	0	0				
Taxes assessed	72	0	0				
Fines and forfeitures	540	4	5				
Postal revenue	377	4	2				
Reimbursements to Government	103	10	11				
Sale of Government property	26	1	10				
Interest	136	16	0				
Miscellaneous receipts	206	11	0				
	3,540	12	6				
	1,034	15	9				
	2,505	16	9		1,034	15	9

The decrease in the two items "Land revenue" and "Port and harbour dues" is due, the former to the disinclination of the Government to dispose of land which had not been surveyed and which could not be undertaken for a considerable time; the latter to the repeal of Ordinances No. 8 of 1878 and No. 4 of 1882 by Ordinance No. 17 of 1885, which came into operation on the 1st September and abolished tonnage dues. There can be no question that this step will conduce to the extension of trade and consequently prove of benefit to the Colony at large.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to 63,235*l.* 4*s.* against 63,182*l.* 8*s.* estimated, thus the estimate was exceeded by 52*l.* 16*s.*, as shown in the subjoined particulars:—

Increase.	£	s.	d.	Decrease.	£	s.	d.
Lands	8	1	2	Colonial Secretary	105	17	9
Governor	245	15	7	Councils	0	0	8
Magistrates	3	1	2	Gaols	11	10	3
Administration of justice	108	2	0	Judicial	228	10	4
Education	146	11	0	Markets	1	5	6
Gaols	328	10	11	Medical	186	14	6
Hospitals, poor-house, &c.	107	17	7	Police	275	18	0
Interest	14	3	0	Post Office	4	2	0
Lighthouses	446	6	0	Treasury and Customs	43	9	7
Military	108	12	3	Works and roads	190	11	2
Miscellaneous services	4,099	3	9	Charitable allowances	26	2	0
Police	452	12	2	Drawbacks	27	8	9
Roads, streets, and bridges	643	15	0	Mails	303	5	7
Transport	328	9	2	Pensions	8	8	5
				Revenue services	0	8	1
	7,041	0	9	Works and buildings	5,574	11	4
	6,988	4	9				
	52	16	0		6,988	4	9

Comparative Yearly Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

A comparison between the customs duties received in 1884 and 1885 is hardly "on all fours," as on the 1st September of the latter year an amended tariff came into operation abolishing, as far as practicable, *ad valorem* duties and increasing considerably the specific list. The result, however, notwithstanding the stagnation of trade all over the world, shows a slight balance of 658*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* in favour of 1885, the Customs revenue for that year being 24,779*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* against 24,130*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* in 1884. The receipts in Customs do not,however,reach those of 1883,when 25,737*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* was paid into the Treasury.

The Excise shows a decrease of 310*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* in respect to 1884, but a slight increase, 90*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*, on the receipts of 1883.

A considerable increment viz., 465*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*, appears in the receipts under the head of Fines and forfeitures, 714*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* being taken in 1884 against 1,180*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* in 1885. A portion of this was due to the successful prosecution for "smuggling" and "selling liquor without a license."

The land sales show a steady diminution year by year. This is not so much due to a lesser number of applications as to greater care that land should not be sold indiscriminately, as has hitherto been too often the case, without ascertaining whether such land had been surveyed or whether it contained mahogany,

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logwood, or other valuable woods, the former commanding 1*l.* per tree, the latter 10*s.* per ton. I considered it was therefore better to withhold the sale of crown lands rather than to sell them disadvantageously or permit them to be taken up, probably, as a mere speculation and with no intention to cultivate the soil.

In the receipts from liquor licences there is a considerable gain, 2,647*l.* having been paid into the Treasury under that head in lieu of 1,994*l.* 15*s.* received in 1884, or nearly one third more. This is to be accounted for by the change in the law, increasing the fee payable for licences.

The postal revenue shows a decrease of 730*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, of which 400*l.* is owing to a reduction in the imperial contribution, and to the fact that the last quarterly payment for 1883 (500*l.*) was brought to account in 1884.

It is unnecessary to touch upon the other items. The outcome, looking to the general state of trade, cannot be considered altogether unsatisfactory, as the revenue for 1885, exceeding that received in 1884 by 379*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, was only less by 31*l.* 17*d.* 11*d.* than that of 1883, when trade was everywhere more prosperous.

Coming to the expenditure, considerable increase is shown over 1884 and previous years, but a perusal of the under-mentioned items will show that large sums were voted by the Council over and above the estimated expenditure. There were also overdrafts in connexion with surveys, furniture for Government House, &c., which had been insufficiently provided for.

	$	c.
Grant to Lady Barlee - -	1,000	00
Purchase of lot adjoining Government House for botanical station -	800	00
New Orleans Exhibition - -	3,916	89
London Exhibition - - -	2,442	19
Local Exhibition - - -	452	00
Expenses connected with locusts -	463	44
Clearing narrows, New River -	1,003	12
Registration of births and deaths -	400	00
Liabilities on escheated lands -	800	00
Cost of bronze coin - - -	294	25
	11,571	89

Besides which there was an excess on the following votes:—

	$	c.
Surveys - - - -	4,058	58
Revision of laws - - -	250	00
Printing, &c - - -	1,729	87
Government House furniture, &c. -	2,803	04
	20,413	38

The condition of the public buildings throughout the Colony, which was referred to in my previous reports, was also such that a very large outlay was requisite.

It is almost impossible when estimating the cost of repairing wooden buildings to arrive at any approximate sum, as, the entire structure consisting of wood, a thorough search into interior decay cannot be made until after the work has been taken in hand.

From the COLONIAL ENGINEER to the Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY.

REPORT ON PUBLIC WORKS IN BRITISH HONDURAS, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, with reference to the above, to report as follows:—

1st. *Lighthouses.*

In maintenance, an expenditure of $1,290.70 was incurred, showing a saving of $309·30 on the appropriation. Two new lighthouses (Fort George and Bugle Cay), as well as a flashing apparatus of the 4th order for a new lighthouse at Northern Two Cays. The amount appropriated was $1,500 but an excess of expenditure was incurred of $3,715.81. The northern channel between Belize and Corosal was marked out with new beacons. For the service of buoys and beacons $1,300 were appropriated but only $825.02 spent.

2nd. *Military Defences.*

The repairs to Forts Cairns and Barlee as usual were extensive and expensive, and the amount ($1,000) appropriated was exceeded by $542.07.

3rd. *Roads, Streets, and Bridges*

Town Streets.—The appropriation for this service was $5,000, but owing to the vote being called upon to contribute to the cost of extending Orange Street to the new cemetery at Lord's Ridge, reclaiming a piece of foreshore near the Freetown barracks, improving and re-modelling Market Square, &c., an excess was incurred of $1,493.74.

Country Roads.—Owing to the expenditure connected with the extension of the Emigrants Road, Toledo District, the survey of a branch road connected therewith to the Rio Grande the appropriation ($5,000) which provided for maintenance only was exceeded by $3,326.81. The appropriations provided $2,500 for improvement of road communication between Belize and Orange Walk, $5,000 between Belize and Punta Gorda, and $3,500

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between Orange Walk and Corosal. On the first item an excess of $1,522.75 was incurred in permanently improving three miles of the road from Haulover Ferry to Tillet's Pond by ditching and levelling, on the second item an excess occurred of $146.93, owing to permanent improvements of 1½ miles of road from Haulover Ferry towards the west. A saving of $3,281.50 was, however, effected in respect to the third item, while a new road 10 miles shorter than the former one was opened and surveyed.

4th. *Works and Buildings.*

Repairs to Public Buildings.—Owing to the very extensive repairs to public buildings throughout the Colony and the providing out of this vote (of $5,000) telephonic communication between Government House and the public offices, a complete system of electric bells in Government House, the rebuilding of the servants' quarters, and the completion of the visitors' cottage also at Government House, the providing of new and improved stalls for the sale of fish at the market, a concrete floor to the Customs landing shed, the re-modelling of the gaol, the providing of new and improved public latrines and a police station at San Pedro, the appropriations were exceeded by $14,519.29.

Dredger and Boats.—Owing to indispensable and extensive repairs to the dredger and the purchase of a new Government barge, an excess of $261.01 was incurred over the appropriation of $1,000 for this service.

Cemeteries.—The appropriations amounted to $3,000 for this service, but owing to large expenditure in connexion with the new Lord's Ridge Cemetery and the re-modelling of the Corosal Cemetery an excess was incurred of $2,448.95.

New Poor-house.—A site was purchased for this building at a cost of $2,500, but the remainder of the $6,000 appropriated was economised.

New Wharves.—The whole of the $1,000 appropriated was saved.

New District Courts, &c.—$20,000 were appropriated for this purpose. New buildings were provided at Mullins River, Stann Creek, and Punta Gorda, and the work connected therewith was nearly completed with an expenditure of $7,235.94.

New Wharf and Market Corosal.—A large iron market building was imported and partly erected. No wharves were made, and only $3,973.55 of the $7,500 appropriated were spent.

New Council Chamber.—$20,000 were appropriated for this service, but the only progress made was the removal of two buildings to clear the site and the importing of 60,000 bricks with an outlay of $2,193.42.

5th. Siccama Scheme.

Nearly the whole of the North Side Canal was cleared to the full required depth and the sides were lined with concrete walls for a distance of 523 lineal yards. New bridges were provided

at each crossing. Arrangements were made and some plant provided for the rest of the work comprised in this contract, and on the whole satisfactory progress has been made by the contractor (Mr. C. T. Hunter).

Taking into consideration the number of unforeseen extra works undertaken and completed during the year beyond what was contemplated in the appropriations, the expenditure though in excess may be considered to be fairly reasonable. The systematic working of the Department has been, however, largely hampered by questions of labor and the inability of providing adequately for the development and advancement of the Colony out of revenue, and without a loan for public works.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. E. P. COTTRELL,
Colonial Engineer.

LEGISLATION, LAWS, PROCLAMATIONS, &c.

Of the legislation introduced during the year, amongst the 32 Ordinances which received Her most Gracious Majesty's confirmation were:—

No. 4 of 1885.—An Act "To regulate the relative rights and "duties of masters and servants."

No. 16 of 1885.—"For levying duties of customs and excise."

No. 17 of 1885.—"For the management of ports and harbours "and for imposing light dues."

No. 4 of 1885.—Prior to the passing of this Ordinance no local legislation existed by which the relative duties of masters and servants were defined, the consequence being that the former were at the mercy of the latter, and it was no uncommon thing for servants to leave at a moment's notice, or, indeed, without any notice at all; the utmost punishment being the voluntary forfeiture of any wages that might be due. Now that there is an alternative of imprisonment upon proof of gross misconduct, a better condition of things has been brought about. Servants under this Ordinance are given every protection from undue severity and harsh treatment on the part of masters.

No. 16 of 1885.—The large number of articles which paid *ad valorem* and not specific duty drew my attention to the neccessity of an amendment of the law in this respect. Of course in many cases it is difficult to have other than an *ad valorem* duty, but where practicable—(I agree with the opinion expressed by the Royal Commissioners in their report on the West India Islands)—it is desirable to impose specific duties. *Ad valorem* duties open the door to fraud on the revenue by importers, whereas the substitution of specific duties would minimise the opportunities for such fraud. A little extra trouble is thrown on the Customs Department, but there are compensating advantages in the increased receipts. The payment of a duty of 5*s.* on the liquid instead of 3*s.*

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on the proof gallon, as before, and "so in proportion according to the strength" was sanctioned under the Ordinance. This is also in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commissioners previously referred to.

No. 17 of 1885.—Before this Ordinance was passed tonnage dues were imposed on all sailing vessels, steamers being exempt, the consequence being that whilst the numbers of steamers calling at the port were increasing sailing vessels but seldom called. Under the circumstances it appeared to me more equitable to abolish tonnage dues altogether and to enforce light dues in respect to steamers as well as sailing vessels at the rate of 12½ cents per ton.

No. 13 of 1885 provides for the raising of a loan not exceeding $100,000, but at the close of the year subscriptions thereto had not been invited.

REPORT ON SCHOOLS RECEIVING GOVERNMENT AID, 1885.

Twenty schools were in receipt of aid at the beginning of the year, one new school was opened in January, another in February, and a third in August. Twenty-three schools were aided at the close of the year. These were all examined or carefully inspected in the last quarter of the year.

The schoolrooms are almost all in good condition, and attended to with some interest, two were in urgent need of slight repairs, and promises were given that these would be attended to without delay.

The number present on the examination day was the largest that has ever been presented.

The number of infants presented was still larger than last year, and there was marked improvement in their training.

The daily attendance generally over the Colony has much improved, though there were times, especially in the latter half of the year, it was smaller and more irregular.

The school registers issued by Council were much appreciated, and were kept in a cleanly and careful manner.

In speaking of the schools, more particularly, we take them in the order in which they were examined.

1. *Northern River.*—Wesleyan. This school has a roll of 52 and 47 were present. There were 24 infants in three divisions, in the alphabet and monosyllables, correct and fair, but slow. The others were presented in the first three standards, and showed a good average attainment. The organisation was good and careful. The discipline was good and maintained with kindly firmness. The apparatus was good and very well cared for.

The attendance was the most regular we have ever notified in this school. Good work has been done by the teacher here in a very earnest and laborious way.

2. *Punta Gorda.*—Roman Catholic. This school was opened in February in a new schoolroom, large and airy, well situated, and clean. There were 88 on the roll, and 78 were present. 56 infants were presented in two divisions, one of 13 in alphabet only, very good, and 43 in small words, very fair. Standards I. and II. were presented. They had all begun at the alphabet and very good progress had been made. The furniture and apparatus were good and fairly sufficient. The discipline was good and maintained with quiet kindly firmness. Good work has been done steadily and earnestly.

3. *Monkey River.*—Wesleyan. 34 names were on the register of this school and 27 were present. Six infants in the alphabet were very good but slow. The others were all in the 1st and 2nd Standards save one, who was in Standard III. This schoolroom is much improved and is now a really good one for the place. The apparatus was good, sufficient, and cared for with hearty interest. The discipline was good and maintained with general and kindly vigour. Good work has been done earnestly and diligently, but not so skilfully as to reach a very high mark of attainment.

4. *Regalia.*—Wesleyan: This school has suffered very much from changes of the teachers since the beginning of the year. The present teacher had been there only a few days, and after the school had been closed for a time. There were only a few gathered together but they were well arranged, and taught with skill and hearty interest. The schoolroom is a very good one and the teacher a capable one, and it is hoped the work will yet go on heartily and successfully.

5. *Sittee River.*—Wesleyan. There were 56 on the roll and 44 present. 10 infants in alphabet and monosyllables did their work smartly, precisely, and very well. The rest were presented in Standards I., II., and III., and showed a very good average mark of attainment. The apparatus is fair, but might be increased with great advantage to the children. The discipline was very good and maintained with decided and uniform firmness. The organisation was fair, and tolerably accurate. Very good work has been done in this school, and, compared with last year (1884), no school has made greater progress in the course of this year.

6. *Stann Creek.*—Roman Catholic. The register of this school had 161 names and 124 were present. 56 infants were presented in two divisions, 19 in alphabet, smart and correct, and 37 in monosyllables, ready, fairly correct, and generally very good. There were presented all the four standards, and in each of them a fair mark of attainment, save in the 2nd, which was decidedly low and inefficient. There is now a very good schoolroom with good furniture and abundant apparatus. The discipline was good and firmly maintained. There has been change of teachers throughout the year, and the organisation of the school was consequently not so settled as to prove very efficient in securing steady progress.

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Stann Creek.—Wesleyan. 57 were on the roll of this school and 49 present. 17 infants were all in the alphabet and were ready and correct at it. There were presented all the four standards, and they showed pretty good attainment in each. The apparatus was good and quite sufficient. The organisation was very careful and exact. The discipline was very good. There has been good, earnest work done, but too mechanical to be as efficient as it ought to be. The school has a very good place, but, in all the circumstances of the case, it might easily hold a much better place if the work were applied more skilfully and systematically.

8. *Mullin's River.*—Wesleyan. The register of this school had 87 names, and 69 were present. 10 infants did their alphabet work very well. All the others were presented in the first three standards and showed a high mark of attainment and very great progress in advance of the year before. Furniture and apparatus were fairly sufficient and good. The discipline was very good and firmly held. Good work has been done in this school and with such diligence and skill as to prove very efficient. The number on the roll has more than doubled in the course of the year.

9. *Manatee.*—Wesleyan. On the roll 36 and 32 were present, 16 infants in two divisions, of 12 in the alphabet and 4 in small words, all very good and correct. All the four standards were presented, and as they were not large the opportunity had evidently been taken to do the work with greater earnestness as well as diligence and painstaking skill, so that a higher state of efficiency had been attained.

The apparatus is good and sufficient. The discipline is very good and maintained steadily and quietly. The organisation was very accurate.

10. *Corosal.*—Roman Catholic. There were 170 names on the roll and 147 were present. 55 infants were presented in two divisions, of 35 and 20 in alphabet and small words, very good, correct, and fairly smart, and showed careful training. The others were presented in the four standards and in all a very creditable mark of attainment was reached. This is an excellent schoolroom with good and sufficient apparatus, now getting worn out in some parts. The organisation is very careful and the discipline very good and very equably maintained. The numbers attending are larger than formerly and hence the language difficulty was more felt than formerly. Good work was nevertheless done with earnestness, diligence, and skill.

11. *Corosal.*—Wesleyan. There were 105 present out of a roll of 117. 22 were infants in two divisions of 13 and 9, and did their work, mostly in small words, smartly and intelligently. The others were in the four standards, and in each a rather high mark of average attainment was reached. This is also an excellent schoolroom, and kept with great care and much interest. It is well supplied with all needful apparatus. The organisation is skilful and accurate, and the discipline very good, and maintained with

firmness and decision. Very good work has been done with skill and systematic diligence.

12. *Orange Walk.*—Roman Catholic. This school has 120 names on the roll and 93 were present. 48 infants gave evidence of very good work considering the language difficulty. In all the standards there was good average attainment, except in the 2nd, where the mark was very low and many failures. There is now a very good schoolroom here, and it is cared for with some interest, and sufficiently supplied with the necessary apparatus. The organisation is not so careful as it might be, and the discipline is rather feeble. The work is done with earnest toil and diligence, but is not so skilful as to show much efficiency.

13. *Boom.*—Wesleyan. The roll had 38 names and 24 present. There were 6 infants who did their work very well. The rest were presented in three standards, showing a very good average mark of attainment, except in the 1st, which was rather low on the average. This is a very good schoolroom for the district, and kept with much care and well supplied with apparatus. The organisation was by no means so skilful as it might have been. The discipline was very good, and maintained with firmness and kindly interest. The teacher, though wanting in experience, has done very good work.

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14. *Barrack Road.*—Wesleyan. On the roll were 139 and 98 present. The infants were in two divisions of 13 and 21, in alphabet and small words, good but slow, and requiring sharper drill in the vowel sounds. The rest were in the four standards and gave evidenec of a generally high attainment, though the average was not quite so high as last year. The work of the second standard was very good in all the branches and in the 4th Standard it was very good but slow. The schoolroom is an excellent one, and abundantly supplied with good apparatus. The organisation was very good and the discipline very good, and very decidedly, though very quietly, maintained. In the hands of the present teacher this school still upholds its character for thorough work.

15. *Roman Catholic Girls.*—On the roll 155 and 128 present. There were 68 infants, mostly in the alphabet and very good, showing very careful training. The four standards were presented and all evidenced a high mark of attainment, though not quite so high as last year. The writing in all the standards was not so good as last year. The 1st standard in all the branches save writing was excellent. The schoolroom is very good, the organisation excellent, and the discipline very good. The work is carried on with energy, and skilful labour, and is highly efficient.

16. *Roman Catholic Boys.*—On the roll 150 and 132 present. These were presented in the four standards, in all of which there was such progress and efficiency that an average mark of attainment, much higher than last year, was gained. The organisation was careful aud exact, and the discipline was very good, and maintained with kindly decision and firmness. The apparatus was very good

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and abundant. The work done was careful and thorough, and gone about diligently, skilfully, and systematically.

17. *Presbyterian.*—80 on the roll and 70 present. There were 16 infants, who did their work in all its parts very well, and showed much anxious and careful training. The others were in the four standards and showed such efficiency as to gain a very creditable mark of attainment though not very high. This school was opened at the beginning of the year and met with many difficulties in getting into working order. The present teacher entered upon the work in the latter half of the year. The organisation was very good and exact, and the discipline firm and rigidly maintained. The apparatus and furniture were abundant and very good. Much diligent and hard work must have been applied with earnestness and skill to bring the school up to such an efficient state in so short a time.

18. *Wesley, Girls.*—Of 185 names on the roll of this school 133 were present. The infants were presented in two divisions of 24 in the alphabet, very good, smart, and correct, and 18 in monosyllables very fair but needing thorough drill in the vowel sounds. The others were presented in the four standards and gave evidence of a high mark of attainment though the average was slightly lower than last year.

The apparatus and furniture are good and very abundant. The organisation is skilfully exact, and the discipline very good and very equally maintained. The work was done with diligence and skill and the school generally is in a high state of efficiency.

19. *Wesley, Boys.*—On the roll were 165 names and 141 present. There were few infants and they did their work very fairly. The most of the school was presented in the four standards, and a very high mark of attainment was secured, whilst the average mark was considerably raised above that of last year. The apparatus is very good and abundant, but the furniture might be renewed with advantage. The organisation was very careful and pretty exact, and the discipline was very good, but might be improved in uniformity and steadiness. The work was done with diligence, earnestness, and skill, and proved itself good and very efficient. This school had the singular distinction of having every pupil present on the examination day whose name was on the examination sheets.

20. *Mrs. Cato's.*—96 names on the Roll and 51 were present. There were 17 infants in the alphabet and monosyllables, and they showed pretty good work. The four standards were presented, and though none of them was large they showed a fair average mark in each standard. The apparatus is good but barely sufficient, and the furniture is pretty good. The organisation was fair and the discipline good and steadily maintained. The work was done with great earnestness and much toil, but was not skilful enough to arrive at great efficiency.

21. *Church of England.*—There were 94 names on the roll and 84 were present. This is a splendid schoolroom, and fairly well

supplied with good furniture and apparatus. The organisation was fair, but might be much improved in correctness. The discipline was good, but too feebly maintained to be very effective, There were 27 infants who did their work pretty well. The four standards were presented, and showed a want of thoroughness in drill, and did not obtain a very high mark of attainment, though on the average it was slightly above that of last year. The work was done with diligence and anxiety, but wanted skill and system to make it highly efficient.

22. *Baptist School.*—On the roll were 54 names and 39 were present. 14 infants did their work very well, ready and exact. The first three standards were presented and showed tolerable evidence of care and diligence, but the mark of attainment was not high. This schoolroom has been much improved, and was clean and tidy, and gave good and sufficient accommodation. The organisation was very careful and tolerably exact, and the discipline pretty good but rather feeble. The apparatus is improved and is now sufficient and the furniture pretty good. The work done is done with very anxious and laborious toil, but is not very efficient.

23. *San Estevan.*—Roman Catholic. This school was carefully inspected. It had been opened only in August and had been at work about three months. The schoolroom is not at all satisfactory and the children met in the chapel. A new schoolroom was getting ready, for which there were sufficient subscriptions. There were 101 names on the roll and 93 were present. They were carefully and exactly organised and were giving evidences of some attainment in all the branches of English required by the regulations. The work was done with skill and earnestness, and the discipline was very good and maintained with kindly firmness.

Remarks on the several Branches.

1. *Reading.*—There has been steady progress in this branch, but yet much remains to be done. The most marked advance has been in "intelligence," in which several schools have made decided progress. The proper use of the letter "s" was quite an improvement, but not so generally so as it is needing to be; while the pronunciation of "th" as "t," which is too general, demands careful attention. There is a slight improvement in "fluency". Much is yet needing to be done in drill in the vowel sounds—o and u especially—and in sustaining the voice throughout a sentence.

2. *Writing.*—Here the progress is very decided and very general in the lower standards, but little or no advance could be noticed in the higher standards. The cause of this deficiency is the pushing of the scholars too rapidly from text hand to small hand. The more careful grading, to which we have so often referred, is the only cure for this. It is slower but surer work.

3. *Arithmetic.*—This branch still advances and now compares favourably with any other.

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The rules are all well understood, and wrought with speed and tolerable correctness. In "Proportion" there is much needing to be done in training to state the sums carefully.

4. *Grammar.*—Steady and creditable work is shown in this branch, pity it is that one does not hear more evidence of this. Careful drill in "parsing" is yet required, so that the application of the definitions and rules, may be readily and more intelligently presented.

5. *Geography.*—The interest in this branch continues unabated and shows good results in a less mechanical way of teaching it. It is wonder to us that more attention is not paid to America, while the other quarters of the globe are so fully taught.

Extra branches were brought forward in most schools. Our attention was drawn to Bible knowledge, drawing, needlework, drill, and manual exercise, and music. In most instances these were taught with skill and success.

The teachers are carrying on their work steadily and faithfully, and are, speaking generally, well worthy of encouragement and support.

While once more expressing our sense of the kindly sympathy and hearty aid received from all parties in prosecuting this work we may record our regret at the delay in issuing this report which various causes rendered unavoidable.

JOHN JACKSON,
Inspector of Schools.

Belize, May 1886.

Imports and Exports.

The returns of imports and exports cannot be called satisfactory; the former amount in all to 254,856*l.* 8*s.* and the latter to 244,280*l.* 4*s.* in 1885, when in the previous year the imports were 237,538*l.* and the exports 317,499*l.* 4*s.*

Whilst the imports from the United Kingdom and the British Colonies has fallen very considerably off in 1885 as compared with 1884, the value of the goods imported from foreign countries has increased in the proportion of 9 to 7, thus showing that the latter are gradually absorbing our custom.

The following tables show the imports and exports for the last three years:—

Imports.

	1883.			1884.			1885.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
United Kingdom - -	148,831	16	0	127,602	8	0	110,677	4	0
British Colonies - -	220	4	0	870	12	0	353	12	0
Foreign Countries - -	119,921	0	0	109,065	0	0	143,825	12	0
Total - -	268,973	0	0	237,538	0	0	254,856	8	0

Exports.

	1883.	1884.	1885.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom - -	177,485 8 0	205,037 8 0	141,760 0 0
British Colonies - - -	20 12 0	5 16 0	189 8 0
Foreign Countries - -	125,363 12 0	112,411 0 0	102,330 16 0
Total - -	302,869 12 0	317,449 4 0	244,280 4 0

It is, however, hardly fair to deduce from the foregoing statements that our export trade has diminished to so considerable an extent compared with previous years as would at first appear. The mahogany cutters, owing to there being no floods at the end of 1885, were unable to get their wood down, and consequently the shipments made amounted almost to nil at that period, and in place of 7,527,879 feet being exported as in the previous year, only 4,036,688 feet were shipped, the monetary value being 43,135*l.* 16*s.* less than in 1884. This additional sum, added, however, to the value of articles exported in 1885, would only give 287,416*l.*, so that the falling off must be owing to other causes apart from this, and may be accounted for by the generally depressed state of trade everywhere.

The following table comprises the chief products of the Colony and more clearly shows the increase or decrease in exportation during the past year:—

Articles.	1884.	1885.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bananas - - -	7,869 8 0	8,259 8 0	390 0 0	—
Cedar - - - -	4,253 16 0	3,290 16 0	—	963 0 0
Cocoa and chocolate - -	8 4 0	32 0 0	23 16 0	—
Cocoa-nut oil - - -	118 0 0	Nil	—	118 0 0
Cocoanuts - - -	5,502 0 0	5,655 12 0	153 12 0	—
Fustic - - - -	42 16 0	6 4 0	—	36 12 0
Hides and skins - -	874 16 0	1,566 8 0	691 12 0	—
Hogs - - - -	111 12 0	80 0 0	—	31 12 0
Limes - - - -	3 4 0	19 12 0	16 8 0	—
Logwood - - -	59,823 16 0	62,235 12 0	2,411 16 0	—
Mahogany - - -	94,877 12 0	51,741 16 0	—	43,135 16 0
Mangoes - - -	24 0 0	31 16 0	7 16 0	—
Oranges - - -	6 0 0	13 0 0	7 0 0	—
Pineapples - - -	87 0 0	37 4 0	—	49 16 0
Plantains - - -	1,017 8 0	921 4 0	—	96 4 0
Plants, seeds, and bulbs -	20 0 0	36 8 0	16 8 0	—
Rubber - - - -	5,534 4 0	10,358 0 0	4,823 16 0	—
Rosewood - - -	410 12 0	233 8 0	—	177 4 0
Sarsaparilla - - -	540 0 0	2,123 12 0	1,583 12 0	—
Spirits (rum) - - -	2,972 8 0	3,734 12 0	762 4 0	—
Sugar, raw - - -	40,957 4 0	25,829 12 0	—	15,127 12 0
Tamarind - - -	3 0 0	Nil	—	3 0 0
Turtle - - - -	568 16 0	310 8 0	—	258 8 0
Zivicote - - -	1,265 4 0	Nil	—	1,265 4 0

Shipping.

It will be seen from the following table that the number and tonnage of sailing vessels entered at Belize has considerably increased as compared with 1884, and that thoughthere was a slight

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increase in the number of steamers entered during 1885 the tonnage has considerably fallen off:—

	1884.	Tonnage.	1885.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels - - -	316	19,346	680	24,089
Steam vessels - - -	131	99,072	140	85,597

The large increase in the number of sailing vessels is due to the action of Ordinance No. 17 of 1885 by which tonnage dues were abolished and light dues imposed on steamers equally with sailing vessels.

Agriculture.

The whole area of cultivated land in the Colony of British Honduras, containing more than 4,000,000 of acres, is very minute, but little more than the one hundreth part of the entire acreage being utilised for agricultural purposes.

The gradual fall in the sugar market has, as in the case of the West Indian Islands, not been unfelt here, the result being that some of the largest estates have been thrown out of cultivation and the sugar industry, unless an improvement takes place in the European and American markets, will ere long be altogether abandoned, except by those small producers, who manufacture to a very limited extent and supply the local demand. On the other hand, the cultivation of bananas, plantains and other fruits is being rapidly developed, and it is not improbable that next year this Colony will be able to meet the requirements of Messrs. Macheca Bros. and others carrying on the fruit trade between New Orleans and New York, who have hitherto had to go outside the Colony to Guatemala and Spanish Honduras to obtain a sufficient supply.

The southern districts of the Colony are at present endeavouring to meet the demand for fruit, but with steam and consequently more rapid communication the inhabitants of the north will turn their attention to what is proving a very remunerative industry to their southern brethren.

The labour question is one which demands attention. For the work done labour is unquestionably very high and, as matters now stand, the employer is entirely at the mercy of the labourer. It is not so much that there is insufficiency of labour as that the wages paid for a few days' work are ample to enable a man to remain in idleness for days together, an opportunity of which the labouring population only too readily avails itself.

Grants of Land.

There is a slight increase in the grants for this year as compared with 1884, 24 grants, containing 1,776 acres, having been made in 1885 against 9 grants containing 280 acres in 1884.

As I have already explained, the small number of grants is due not so much to the falling off in applications, as to the tact that I am averse to selling all the lands at 4*s.* an acre, as much is unsurveyed and may, for all that is known to the contrary, contain valuable woods.

Gaols and Prisoners.

While it is gratifying to notice the decrease in the number of prisoners entering the gaols, as compared with the previous year, the daily average is slightly larger. This, combined with the necessity of employing reliable overseers at a higher rate, may account for the increased expenditure, amounting to 124*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*

Discipline has much improved during the year, and the completion of extensive additions and repairs has greatly added to efficiency of control.

Criminal Statistics.

The criminal statistics wear a wholesome aspect, the total number of summary convictions being 2,048 as against 2,312 in 1884, while I am glad to report the commitments under the Labour Ordinance show a decrease of 107.

Hospitals.

The Colonial surgeon's returns show an increase of 20 per cent. of patients admitted iuto hospital during the year as compared with 1884, the entire increase being amongst the male patients. This is easily accounted for by the influx of labourers and others employed on the railway in Guatemala, and which necessitated the introduction of Ordinance No. 5 of 1885, "To prevent " mendicants and infirm immigrants from landing in the Colony of " British Honduras." It is satisfactory to find, however, that the hospital death-rate was only 10·9 as against 11·7 in the previous years.

During the year the hospital was painted inside and out, general repairs were undertaken, and the lavatories were fitted with slate appurtenances.

Lunatic Asylum.

Various repairs were carried out during the year, and here also slate appurtenances were provided for the lavatories. There was no increase in the number of admissions over the previous year, and two deaths took place as compared with nil in 1884. These establishments are well and economically conducted under the supervision of the Colonial surgeon.

Poor House.

This building requires extensive renovations, if not e ntire renewal. A sum was placed on the estimates for its reconstruction; a site, however, was only purchased at an outlay of 500*l.*

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 11.

GOVERNOR the Right Hon. VISCOUNT GORMANSTON, to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Government House, Antigua,
May 26, 1886.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Presidency of Montserrat for the year 1885, with the Acting President's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GORMANSTON,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c.

President's Office,
Montserrat, May 8, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to his Excellency the Governor the Blue Book of this Presidency for 1885, with the accompanying report thereon.

Finance.

REVENUE.				EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Receipts for 1885 - -	5,069	10	1	Expenditure - -	5,277	14	2
„ arrears of 1884 -	87	0	10	„ arrears of 1884 - - -	46	17	5
	5,156	10	11		5,324	11	7
Water Works receipts -	297	17	3	On Water Works account	279	4	10
On Inter Colonial Money Orders -	86	4	4		5,603	16	5
On General Post Office Account -	6	3	7	Credit balance in hand on 31st Dec. 1885 -	707	3	7
	390	5	2				
Total - -	5,546	16	1				
Balance on 1st January 1885 from 1884 -	764	3	11				
	6,311	0	0		6,311	0	0

The revenue estimated at 5,526*l.* yielded but 5,069*l.*, falling short on the whole 457*l.* The principal sources which fell short were import duties, estimated at 2,375*l.*, gave but 2,045*l.*, and export duties, estimated at 425*l.*, yielded but 369*l.*

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue derived from imports and exports for the last three years:—

Years.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1883 - - - -	2,776	468
1884 - - - -	2,773	523
1885 - - - -	2,045	369

The expenditure was estimated at 6,101*l.* inclusive of subsequent supplementary votes amounting to 677*l.* The actual payments were 5,277*l.*

This falling off in the import duties is attributable to the great decline there has been in trade generally, affected as it has been by the unsettled state of the sugar industry, sugar being the chief product of the Island.

Assets and Liabilities on the 31*st December* 1885.

Assets.	£	*s.*	*d.*	Liabilities.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance in the Colonial Bank of interest on general account - -	4	5	9	Debenture holders on Water Works Loan -	4,000	0	0
Crown Agents on Water Works Sinking Fund -	60	0	0	Loan in aid of revenue 1882 payable 31st Dec. 1887 - - -	300	0	0
Cash balance in Treasury on current account -	707	3	7	On Inter Colonial Money Orders - -	86	4	4
Total - -	771	9	4	General Post Office on Postal Account -	10	15	4
Excess of liabilities -	3,625	10	4				
	4,396	19	8		4,396	19	8

Roads and Bridges.

Expenditure in aid of statute labour in mason work and in the purchase of tools was 188*l.*

MONTSERRAT.

Works and Buildings.

The following expenditure has been incurred on public buildings, namely :—

	£	s.	d.
The male and female lunatic wards at the chateau have been extensively altered and repaired.			
In the public market the fish shed has been rebuilt, enlarged, and roof covered with galvanized iron.			
The butchers' stall has been repaired and roof covered with galvanized iron.			
Police station. A bath house has been built.			
A room as lock-up store for the use of waterworks and as a fire brigade quarters has been built and covered with galvanized iron roof - - -	120	3	4
Expended on jetty repairs commenced -	15	11	5
Lumber on hand purchased for repairs of lepers quarters at chateau - -	8	11	0
Incidental repairs on other public buildings	13	3	8
	157	9	5

Legislation.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1885, namely—

No. 1.—An Ordinance to sanction certain payments from the Public Treasury in excess of sums placed on the estimates of 1884.

No. 2.—An Ordinance to regulate the performance of the duties of public officers in certain events.

No. 3.—An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Presidency of Montserrat for the year 1886.

Bye laws for regulating the duties of the inspector of weights and measures made by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Executive Council of the Presidency of Montserrat, under the authority of the Act of the Leeward Islands No. 1 of 1884.

Population.

The population according to the last census taken in 1881 was males 4,639, females 5,449; total, 10,083.

The following return shows the number of marriages and also,

the number of births and deaths registered for 1883, 1884, 1885 respectively :—

Year.	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.
1883 - - -	126	494	201
1884 - - -	104	501	253
1885 - -	113	520	241

Savings Bank.

Dr. *Cr.*

£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
—			14 depositors of less than 1*l.* - - -	3	1	11
—			13 „ over 1*l.*, and less than 5*l.* - -	31	1	6
—			9 „ „ 5*l.* „ „ 10*l.* - -	62	7	2
—			5 „ „ 10*l.* „ „ 20*l.* - -	62	16	7
—			6 „ „ 20*l.* „ „ 30*l.* - -	124	8	0
—			1 „ „ 40*l.* „ „ 50*l.* - -	42	8	3
—			1 „ „ 50*l.* „ „ 60*l.* - -	50	16	5
—			1 „ „ 60*l.* „ „ 70*l.* - -	61	6	3
—			1 „ „ 70*l.* „ „ 80*l.* - -	72	19	6
—			6 „ „ 100*l.* - - - -	799	6	5
			57	1,310	12	0
1,050	0	0	Deposits at Interest.			
119	6	0	Interest account.			
4	1	2	Expense Account.			
137	4	10	Cash Account.			
1,310	12	0		1,310	12	0

Education.

There are 10 elementary schools in receipt of Government aid. One 1st class, two 2nd class, and seven 3rd class. Average for capitation, 787. Grant for 1885, 300*l.* 13*s.* exclusive of contribution to federal grant to Mico Institution and pay of Inspector, 33*l.* 15*s.*

Table showing the value of imports and exports, 1883, 1884, and 1885:—

	Imports from.				Exports to.			
Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1883	12,778	15,573	905	29,256	24,612	3,577	3,305	31,494
1884	8,110	15,009	2,479	25,598	13,761	1,293	17,624	32,678
1885	6,889	11,251	2,496	20,636	3,555	1,254	11,475	16,284

MONTSERRAT.

The following is a table of the principal exports of articles, the growth produce and manufacture of the Island for 1885, as compared with 1884 :—

Year.	Sugar.		Molasses.	Lime Juice, concentrated.	Lime Juice, raw.
	Tierces.	Barrels.	Puns.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1884 -	2,494	3,166	281	13,966	133,139
1885 -	1,647	4,041	413	1,000	15,275

(*continued*).

Year.	Lime Essence.	Fresh Limes.	Tamarinds.	Horned Cattle	Sheep.
	Cases.	Boxes.	Barrels.		
1884 -	26	953	275	60	73
1885 -	4	822	413	92	89

The great falling off in the sugar crop of 1885 is not only attributable to the circumstance that five of the best sugar estates in the Island having been put in the Incumbered Estates Court were allowed by the owners to go almost entirely out of cultivation, but also in consequence of the depressed state of the sugar industry the proprietors of other sugar estates in the Island had very considerably reduced their cultivation, not planting, but depending chiefly on the rattoon crops.

The short export for 1885 of lime juice was caused by a large stock of juice on hand, and not shipped until 1886.

Shipping.

The following is a comparison of the shipping entered and cleared in 1884 and 1885 :—

		Entered.			Cleared.		
		No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.
1884	Sailing - -	255	6,294	956	278	6,740	1,089
	Steam - -	34	31,294	896	34	31,936	904
1885	Sailing - -	309	7,483	1,252	309	7,465	1,243
	Steam - -	73	101,360	2,087	73	101,312	2,039

Gaols and Prisoners.

The total number of persons committed in 1885 was 123; males 79, females 35, juveniles 9. Of these 22 were for safe custody pending trial or for want of security, and 101 were for

purposes of penal imprisonment, namely :— males 64, females 30, juveniles 7. Of those sentenced to penal imprisonment 6 were for one or more years, but less than five years, 1 for more than three months but less than one year, and 94 for three months or less.

The number of those previously convicted are : 6 once, 4 twice, and 9 three or more.

The daily average number in prison was eight.

Admissions to hospital during the year were 14 ; the longest duration of any case in hospital was six days.

There were no deaths.

The total annual cost of the prison for 1885 was as follows :—

Prisoners :—

	£	*s*	*d*
Prisoners removed to Antigua Prison -	74	8	3
Do. local prison - - -	83	5	6
Gaol officers :—			
Keeper, matron and superintendent of convicts - - - -	90	0	0
Chaplain - - - -	10	0	0
	257	13	9

The amount of prisoners' earnings from 1st July 1885, from which date an account began to be taken by order of the Secretary of State, was 5*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*

Criminal Statistics.

Table showing the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions and acquittals for the last four years :—

	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
Number of persons apprehended or summoned before the magistrate -	694	719	826	741
Number of summary convictions:—				
For offences against the person -	96	159	145	128
For prædial larceny - -	27	13	18	17
Offences against property other than prædial larceny - -	83	46	94	115
Other offences - - -	105	80	103	108
Number of convictions in superior courts:—				
Offences against the person -	1	—	4	1
Offences against property other than prædial larceny - -	—	9	3	9*
For other offences - -	—	2	—	—
Number of persons acquitted:—				
In the inferior courts - -	368	416	456	354
In the Superior Courts - -	1	6	3	10†

* Of these four were tried and convicted together.

† Of these four were tried together.

MONTSERRAT.

Meteorological Observations. Station, Olveston, long. 62° 12′ 55″ W., lat. 16° 45′ 3″ N.; height, 450″:—

Months.	Mean pressure.	Air Temperature.						
		Mean.	Means of.		Absolute Minimum and Maximnm.			
			Min.	Max.	Min.	Date.	Max.	Date.
Year 1885.								
January - - -	—	76¼	—	—	74	3rd, 8th, 19th	80	20th
February - -	—	78·66	—	—	76	18th	81⅓	23rd
March - - -	—	80	—	—	75⅓	24th	83	13th
April - - -	—	81¼	—	—	74	24th	86	9th, 29th
May - - -	—	86¼	—	—	81	8th	92½	13th
June - - -	—	84·68	—	—	76	18th	88	8th, 12th
July - - -	—	85	—	—	79	6th	88	8th, 17th, 23rd
August - - -	—	86·65	—	—	81⅓	15th	92	8th
September - -	—	87·73	—	—	83	1st	92	18th
October - - -	—	84·96	—	—	76	8th	90	27th
November - -	—	80·0	—	—	75⅓	28th	83	13th
December - -	—	76·97	73*	81*	72⅓	23rd	81	2nd

* This information was only furnished for the month of December.

I am indebted to Mr. Francis Watts, F.C.S., in the employ of the Montserrat Company, Limited, for the following report:—

"No correct series of observation of temperature readings having been taken in the Island all the thermometers readings recorded (the month of December excepted) refer to the thermometer exposed on a North wall in the shade, but unprotected from radiation.

"In December the thermometers were placed in a Stephenson's screen and raised 4 feet above the ground.

"Height of station above sea level about 450 feet.

"Barometer readings.—The instrument employed was a syphon barometer graduated in millemeters. The readings are uncorrected. Height above sea level 400 feet.

"The rainfall is recorded daily at 9 a.m. and registered for that day, *i.e.* recording the rain fall for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m.

"Guage 9 in. diameter. Height above ground 12 inches."

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. MEADE,
Acting President.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary
of the Leeward Islands, Antigua.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS.

No. 12.

Governor the Right Hon. Viscount GORMANSTON to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Government House, Antigua,
May 19, 1886.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Presidency of St. Christopher-Nevis for the year 1885, with the Acting President's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GORMANSTON,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

President's Office, St. Kitts,
May 13, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for 1885, with the following report:—

The financial result of the year 1885 was unsatisfactory, the depression in agriculture having re-acted upon the commmercial transactions of the Presidency.

The revenue and expenditure may be summarized as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand January 1st - -				5,434	12	8
Revenue from all sources during year -				35,443	3	6
Refund Federal expenses, over paid -				365	6	1
Excess of expenditure over revenue -				187	14	4
				41,430	16	7
General expenditure -	38,923	4	1			
Protection Works, B'terre - -	1,776	7	9			
Inter Colonial money orders - -	70	5	5			
Arrears of 1884 paid in 1885 - -	660	19	4			
				41,430	16	7

To the excess of expenditure may be added about 1,000*l.* for arrears of 1885 to be paid in 1886, whilst the arrears of revenue for collection in 1886 will not exceed 200*l.*

ST. KITT'S AND NEVIS.

The revenue estimated at 39,737*l.* 10*s.* realised 35,443*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, the principal falling off 4,057*l.* being under import duty, export duty, export tonnage, tonnage and package duty, stamp duty and some minor sources of revenue. Licenses and excise realised some 480*l.* beyond their estimated receipt.

The expenditure estimated at 39,508*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* was augmented under a supplementary Ordinance in the sum of 1,509*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, making a total estimated expenditure of 41,018*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* The actual payments were 40,699*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* plus arrears of 1884, 660*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, paid during the year.

This unfavourable result is readily accounted for after due examination of the following figures:—

Comparison between the Years 1883, 1884, *and* 1885.

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1883 - - - -	205,788	252,267
1884 - - - -	213,583	205,497
1885 - - - -	152,874	199,075

Places from and Value of Imports.

	1883.	1884.	1885.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - -	100,560	102,048	64,561
British Colonies - -	20,868	20,702	18,119
Foreign Countries -	84,359	90,833	70,194

Thus it appears that the value of imports in 1885 against 1883 shows a loss of 52,914*l.*, and as against 1884 60,709*l.*

Places to and Value of Exports.

	1883.	1884.	1885.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - -	156,417	97,989	53,662
British Colonies - -	8,958	9,724	10,502
Foreign Countries -	86,892	27,784	135,111

The diminution of value in 1885 being 53,192*l.* against 1883, and 6,322*l.* against 1884. These losses being in face of a large crop in 1884, and a crop of 16,207 hogsheads of sugar in 1885, together with a comparatively excessive shipment of rum in the latter year.

Produce Shipped.

	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.	Value.
	Hhds.	Puns.	Puns.	£
1883 - -	14,794	5,520	378	238,474
1884 - -	19,380	3,180	1,113	189,280
1885 - -	16,160	3,787	1,536	183,520

Thus the value of the crops of 1884 and 1885 were 49,194*l.* and 54,954*l.* respectively less than 1883, although the yield was considerably more in each year. The result has been want of confidence at home and tightness of money in the Presidency.

A larger circulation of money in 1883 stimulated a demand for imported goods, which was too generously responded to by importers, and the anticipated profits were crushed by the fall in the price of sugar in 1884 and 1885. Mercantile depression and extensive curtailment of orders and imports have been the sequel.

I will now proceed to trace the proportion of loss in the value of imports borne by a certain classification of imports as compared with 1883 and 1884 :—

	Value.		
	1883.	1884.	1885.
	£	£	£
Bread, biscuit, tea, coffee, cocoa, fish, dried and pickled, flour, corn meal, rice, pease, lard, butter, salted beef and pork, hams and groceries -	72,754	81,600	70,841
Spirits, malt, wine, and tobacco -	13,697	10,551	8,028
Lumber of all kinds, bricks, cement, &c. -	22,971	24,999	17,631
Live stock, horses, mules, &c. - -	3,258	4,244	546
Cottons, linens, woollens, hats - -	55,563	49,541	32,861
Miscellaneous - - - -	25,533	23,323	16,027
Free goods - - - -	12,012	19,331	6,940

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS.

Recapitulation of diminution as compared with—

	1883.	1884.
	£	£
Food - - - -	1,913	10,759
Spirits, &c. - - -	5,669	2,523
Lumber, &c. - - -	5,340	7,362
Live stock - - - -	2,712	3,698
Cottons, &c. - - -	22,702	16,680
Miscellaneous - - -	9,506	7,296
Free goods - - -	5,072	12,391
	52,914	60,709

The export trade, exclusive of Island produce, has not varied materially. Its valuation is for corresponding years already quoted, 13,794*l.*, 16,749*l.*, 15,534*l.*

Legislation.

The Legislature was engaged during the year in much useful work.

The usual appropriation Ordinances were passed (Nos. 3 and 4), the Nevis land tax (No.10) and St. Kitts Immigration (No. 1),were suspended for one year; the export duty on salt was abolished (No. 16); the raising a loan for the construction of Water Works for the towns of Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay was passed (Nos. 7 and 9); the registration of births, deaths, and marriages was improved (No. 2); a loan was reauthorised for the erection of protection works for Basseterre (No. 5); land was purchased for a market place in Nevis, and a Cemetery at Nichola Town in St. Kitts (No. 8), and Cemetery Commissioners were created (No. 18); the back passage of the coolies from Nevis to India was commuted for a money payment (No. 6), better facilities for collecting the export dnty on sugar were enacted (No. 13), and for regulating the trade (No. 12), a pension was allowed to a Cavalry man who was injured on duty (No. 14), an Ordinance affecting leave of absence of public officers became law (No. 15), an amended dog license enactment became law (No. 21), Ordinances relating to medical aid for the labouring population in the Presidency (Nos. 19 and 20), the Nevis Infirmary (No. 17), and the Hospita at Sandy point (Nos. 22 and 23.) Ordinances were passed; an Ordinance declaring that the acts of the executive Council of the United Presidency should be deemed and taken as the acts of the local executive councils of the Islands of St. Kitts and Nevis before the union of the Islands.

General.

His Excellency Governor Sir C. C. Lees, K.C.M.G., was promoted from the Leeward Islands to the Government of Barbados, and His Excellency Viscount Gormanston succeeded him.

The Honorable James S. Berridge and Dr. J. K. Dinzey died during the year, both these gentlemen were held in great public esteem.

The general health of the Island may be gathered from the following extract from Dr. Branch's report on the analysis of the vital statistics for the December quarter :—

" The mortality in St. Kitts during 1885 was 1,070 or nearly 37 per thousand of the population. This is just about the annual average for the last nine years. Though very unsatisfactory, it is nevertheless, a proof to those who understand the habits of our people of the salubrity of the climate.

" The births in St. Kitts during the year were 1,352, which number is 282 in excess of the deaths. The births in 1884 were 1270 and exceeded, as I stated in reviewing the vital statistics of that year, the average of the four preceding years by 29. The birth rates of those five years were nearly 44 per thousand of the population. But the birth rate of 1885 amounts to 46½ per thousand and is the highest yet registered in this Island, so far as I am aware.

" The effect of the continued depression in the price of sugar on the vital statistics of the Presidency will not be definitely manifested so long as the charitable institutions, especially the Cunninghame Hospital can be supplied with sufficient funds to meet the increasing demands on them for assistance. The only result yet noticeable is that the old and infirm are more eagerly and irrepressibly forced on public charity than in prosperous times. The labouring people, relieved of these burdens, still get food enough to sustain existence comfortably, and to maintain undiminished sexual appetite and vigour.

" The severity of the strain on the Cunninghame Hospital is apparent from the fact that 815 cases have been treated in its wards during 1885, that is 77 more than last year, high as its number was, and about twice as many as used to be its annual average some ten years ago. The death rate was 14·4 per cent.

" The want of a poor house as a separate institution is one of the subjects to which I have called attention very often, but in vain, since I have been in the medical service of this Colony. During 1885, a greater proportion even than usual of the inmates of the Cunninghame Hospital were sufferers from incurable chronic disease in its last stage, or from old age. The mixed character of the institution, which is both a poor house and a hospital, necessarily causes its death rate to be higher than it would be were it a hospital only. This is especially noticeable in a year like the last when there was such a large influx of patients of whose recovery their friends had long since abandoned all hope, but whose

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funeral expenses they were very anxious to evade. If those patients only, the nature of whose ailments gave them a just claim for treatment in the wards of a general hospital, had been received into the Cunninghame in 1885, its death rate for the year would have been remarkably small, for very few acute medical or surgical cases appear among the list of deaths.

"There was stringent economy enforced upon and by the agriculturists, the reduction of wage, and the decreased value of the products of the soil, all combined to confine the expenditure of all classes to the necessaries of life, and amongst the labourers out of crop it is to be feared much suffering was endured.

I have, &c.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c.

(Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,
Acting President.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 13.

Governor the Right Hon. VISCOUNT GORMANSTON to the Right Hon. EDWARD STANHOPE, M.P.

Government House, Antigua,
September 16, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1885, with the Acting President's report thereon.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon.
Edward Stanhope,
&c. &c.

(Signed) GORMANSTON,
Governor.

Government Office, Tortola,
July 19, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to his Excellency the Governor the Blue Book for this Presidency for the year 1885, with the accompanying report thereon.

Revenue.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to 1,752*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, which shows a decrease of 100*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* under the receipts for the year 1884.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to 1,925*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, showing an increase of 51*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* over that of the year 1884. This is owing to the large amount of 557*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, arrears for previous years which have been paid up, as there has been no increase in the expenditure of this Presidency.

Legislation.

The following Ordinances have been passed, viz.:—

No. 1.—An Ordinance to sanction certain payments from the Public Treasury in excess of sums placed on the Estimates 1884.

No. 2.—An Ordinance to make further provision for the collection of the public revenue.

No. 3.—An Ordinance to authorise the allotment of Crown Lands in the Island of Anegada, and to provide for the settlement of claims to land in the said island.

No. 4.—An Ordinance to regulate the performance of the duties of public officers in certain cases.

No. 5.—An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Presidency of the Virgin Islands for the year 1886.

Imports and Exports.

The revenue derived from import duties amounted to 605*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, showing a decrease of 117*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* under that of 1884. The decrease in the revenue from this source is owing to the death of one of the principal importers in this island, and the closing of the business. The revenue derived from export duties amounted to 455*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* for the year 1885, showing a decrease of 44*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* under that of 1884. The decrease in the revenue from export duties is due solely to the removal of the Royal Mail steamers from the Island of Saint Thomas, where a ready sale for cattle, &c. from this island were met with at all times; but now it is of no use whatever to take them to that market, except to sacrifice or to return with them, and that can only be done in moderate weather, as the boats are small.

Criminal Statistics.

There were no criminal cases for trial during the year 1885, which I am happy to say speaks well for the loyalty and integrity of the people with whom I have to be brought in almost daily contact.

Education.

There are nine schools in this Presidency, out of which four alone have come up to the standard of third class, and are in the receipt of Government aid.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

General Remarks.

To all appearance this island seems to be getting worse every year; the houses are all fast crumbling into decay for want of capital to repair them; they are allowed to tumble over the heads of the inmates.

For want of employment all the young and able-bodied men are compelled to leave the island for Santo Domingo and Colon, where a field is open for labour and industry; but from the unhealthy state of the last-mentioned place it is sad to say, out of the many who go, few return, as they sicken, neglected, and invariably die, and are buried like the inferior animals.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. AUGUSTUS PICKERING.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.
Leeward Islands.

ST. VINCENT.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 14.

Governor W. J. SENDALL to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Grenada, May 28, 1886.

Forwarded.

The Right Hon. (Signed) WALTER J. SENDALL.
Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c.

Government House, St. Vincent,
May 7, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of St. Vincent for the year 1885, together with my report thereon for transmission to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Taxes, Duties, Fees.

2. The following alterations were made in 1885 in the taxes and duties, which, however, in all other respects remained the same as those in force in the preceding year:—

(I.) The operation of the export taxes imposed for immigration purposes in 1878 and 1879 was suspended during 1885 under instructions from the Governor in Chief, in order to afford relief to

the planters, who had represented their inability to pay those duties on account of the abnormally low prices of Muscovado sugars; and—

(II.) The duty on rum was simultaneously increased by 25 per cent. in the hope of, to some extent, recouping the Colony for the anticipated loss to the revenue from the suspension of the export taxes. The result, however, of this legislation was a deficit on the Immigration Fund amounting to a little over 5,000*l.* and a falling off in the sum collected under the excise of about 4,500*l.*; about 2,330*l.* was, however, paid in December 1884 on rum taken out of bond as soon as it was known that a rise in the duty would take place in 1885, thus to some extent accounting for a part of this large decrease.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue collected during the year amounted to 23,857*l.*, and the expenditure to 31,344*l.*, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue of 7,487*l.* In explanation of this falling off in the revenue I should here remark that as compared with 1884 there was a decrease on the following items:—

	£
Import duties - - - -	1,685
Tonnage dues - - - -	153
Excise - - - -	4,500
Altogether amounting to - -	6,238

As stated in my report on the Blue Book for 1884, when accounting for a falling off in the revenue of that year, the decrease must be attributed to the low prices obtained in the home markets for Muscovado sugar, which, I regret to say, continued during the whole of 1885 at quotations of from 11*s.* to 13*s.* 9*d.* per cwt., causing a corresponding decrease in the amount of wages paid by planters to the agricultural population.

Public Debt.

4. The remaining 500*l.* due on account of a loan from the Savings Bank effected in 1878 having been paid off, the public debt was reduced at the end of the year to the 1,680*l.* raised under "The Government House Loan Ordinance 1882," but of this amount four debentures (160*l.*) were paid off under the provisions of the Ordinance above referred to.

Public Roads and Works.

5. Owing to the falling off in the revenue already referred to, I had to confine the expenditure under these heads, to that absolutely required for keeping the public buildings and roads in good repair.

Legislation.

6. Twelve Ordinances were passed during the year 1885 :—

No. 1.—An Ordinance to authorise the Governor to make loans out of the general revenue of this Colony for the purpose of effecting improvements in the small towns as defined by "The Small Towns Regulation Ordinance, 1878."

No. 2.—To make provision for regulating and controlling the traffic in Kingstown Harbour, more especially with a view to keeping order amongst the boats and boatmen plying for hire between the Kingstown jetty and vessels lying in harbour.

No. 3.—An Ordinance to repeal "The Public Cemeteries Ordinance, 1878" and "The Acquisition of Land Ordinance, 1882," and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

This Ordinance repeals that on the same subject of 1882, and makes other provisions in lieu thereof, in accordance with instructions from the Secretary of State.

No. 4.—An Ordinance to regulate the manufacture, keeping, importation, conveyance, and sale of explosive substances.

This Ordinance was passed to give effect to the suggestion contained in a circular despatch from the Secretary of State, as there was no existing legislation on these subjects.

No. 5.—An Ordinance to prevent the spreading of the disease called yaws.

This Ordinance differs in some slight degree from the Grenada Ordinance on the same subject, upon the lines of which it was drafted, and, although assented to, has not been brought into active operation owing to the depression in the Muscovado sugar market, which has materially affected the revenue, and it therefore having been found impossible to place the amount (about 2,000*l.*) for working the Yaws Ordinance upon the estimates for 1885.

No. 6.—An Ordinance to amend so much of "The Supreme Court of Judicature Ordinance, 1880," and "The Jury Ordinance, 1882," as relates to the payment of jurors, allowances of witnesses for the Crown in criminal cases, and the mode to summoning jurors.

No. 7.—An Ordinance to regulate weights and measures.

This Ordinance was drawn to remedy a deficiency in local legislation, as the people had no protection against the retailers who might refuse to weigh or measure goods, cloth, &c. retailed; and embodies certain suggestions by the Board of Trade which were approved of by the Secretary of State.

No. 8.—An Ordinance to legalise the expenditure of certain sums of money paid from the general revenue for the service of the year 1884, in addition to the sums already sanctioned under "The Appropriation Ordinance, 1884."

No. 9.—An Ordinance to authorise the Governor to make loans out of the general revenue of this Colony for the purpose of effecting the construction of permanent works in the town of Kingstown relating to the said town as the Governor-in-Council may direct

This Ordinance enables the Governor to make loans out of the general revenue for effecting the construction of permanent works, and is secured upon the town rates of the city.

No. 10.—An Ordinance to repeal certain parts of "The Education Ordinance, 1878."

The passing of this Ordinance has been caused by the utter failure of the Kingstown Grammar School under the direction of its late master, Mr. Thomas Ross.

After several inquiries at different times since 1881 into the causes of such failure a final report was made by the head master of a neighbouring college, which was forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who thereupon directed that steps should be taken to repeal certain portions of the Education Ordinance of 1878, creating the Government Grammar School in the town of Kingstown.

No. 11.—An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the interment of any person found *felo de se*.

This Ordinance is drawn on the lines of the Imperial Act 45 & 46 Vict. c. 19; sections 1, 3, and 5 of that enactment are not, however, contained in this Ordinance, as they only apply to certain Imperial legislation, not in force in this Colony, or otherwise to circumstances that do not exist here.

No. 12.—An Ordinance to consolidate the laws imposing an excise duty on spirits manufactured in this Colony.

This Ordinance consolidates three former Ordinances upon the same subject and was passed by the local Legislature in order to apply a remedy to the gradually increasing illicit distribution of rum amongst the labouring population upon estates when distilleries were at work.

Councils.

7. Mr. Alfred Kingdon, the acting Attorney General, obtained six months' leave of absence from June to November, and Mr. N. F. Briggs, acting as Attorney General, became *ex officio* a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils.

Mr. D. K. Porter, an un-official member of the Executive Council, resigned his seat in October, whilst Mr. R. S. Cheesman, also an un-official member of both the Executive and Legislative Councils, having left the Colony in May on three months' leave of absence vacated his seat, his leave not having been extended by the Secretary of State.

Mr. J. B. Proudfoot, an un-official member of the Legislative Council, died in Barbados in August, whilst on six weeks' leave of absence, and Mr. W. E. Hughes resigned his seat in November.

Education.

8. There was a slight increase in the expenditure under this head as compared with that of the preceding year, the number of scholars having increased by 266 during the year, whilst on the days of the examinations there were more pupils present by 454 than in 1884.

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Two important changes were made in the regulations,—

(1.) The establishment of the pupil-teachers system; and,

(2.) The introduction to a large extent of the payment of teachers' salaries by results.

Although some opposition was shown to the latter system, many teachers have since its coming into operation expressed themselves in favour of this mode of payment, which, besides securing an honest equivalent for the Government money, gives remuneration to each teacher in proportion to the efficiency of his school.

Gaols and Prisoners.

9. The earnings of the prisoners employed under the directions of the Colonial engineer amounted to 74*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, whilst the value of the stones broken within the walls of the prison, and used in the town, amounted to 189*l.* 13*s.*, giving a total of 264*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*; but no money was paid or received on account of these earnings, the labour of the convicts not being charged to any particular work. There were eight cases of corporal punishment in 1885, averaging 18 lashes each, six of which were for insubordination, one for an attempt at escape, and one for assaulting another prisoner.

There was no death in the gaol during the year; in fact, no death has occurred in the prison since November 1882.

Criminal Statistics.

10. The report of the acting Attorney General upon these statistics is very satisfactory. With the exception of prædial larceny, the number of offences are generally below those of a similar nature committed in 1884. I can only attribute this increase to the reduction in the amount of wages paid to the labouring classes, to whom the growing canes offer a greater temptation than ever, the means of purchasing food being to a considerable amount withdrawn from them. In all other respects these returns show a marked improvement.

Hospitals.

11. During 1885 I visited the Colonial Hospital once by appointment and seven times by surprise, and, on the whole, was satisfied with the working of the institution. Owing, however, to the falling off in the revenue, consequent upon the depression in the sugar market, I regret to report that I was unable to carry out the permission I had obtained from the Secretary of State during the course of the year to transfer the paupers to the late Edinburgh Hospital from Fort Charlotte, but I am in correspondence with the trustees of the Graham Bequest with a view to obtaining sufficient money to put the Edinburgh Hospital into proper order to receive the paupers.

Immigration.

12. I am sorry to say that the anticipations I entertained in 1884 with regard to having to send back to India all the "Lightening" and "Lincellas" coolies were realised, and that the Colony has lost the services of about 500 acclimatized East Indians, the planters having adhered to the intentions they declared in 1884 of not re-indenturing any of these people, who accordingly left the Colony in the immigrant ships "Bann" and "The Bruce," at a cost to the Immigration Fund of already no less than 6,336*l.*, whilst there are still other expenses under this head, which have not yet been rendered.

Grants of Land.

13. In former reports upon the Blue Books of St. Vincent I have called attention to the great want of a general survey of the Island before lands can be generally granted to applicants, or a stop can be put to the extensive squatting which prevails in the interior of the Island. This squatting results in the wanton destruction, for the purpose of making charcoal, of the magnificent timber trees growing on Crown lands, for only the lighter limbs are used for burning, whilst the huge trunks lie rotting upon the ground where they fall. At present this deplorable waste has not affected the rainfall, but there can be no doubt that if a stop is not shortly put to this destruction, there must be a material falling off. Now a general decrease in the volume of water of the small ravines and numerous streams and rivulets of the Colony would to a large extent affect the productive powers of the soil.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS FRED. GORE,
Lieutenant Governor.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA.

No. 15.

Governor Lieut.-Gen. T. L. J, GALLWEY, to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

MY LORD, Bermuda, June 3, 1885.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the annual Blue Book, together with the report of Mr. Cavendish Boyle, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
The Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

BERMUDA.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hamilton, Bermuda,
May 21, 1886.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following report on the Blue Book for the year 1885 :—

Finance.

1. The amount of revenue raised during the year was 28,693*l.* whilst the expenditure reached a total of 29,396*l.* The last-named sum included a repayment of 300*l.* out of 500*l.* raised on debentures for the purposes of the new Government House. The actual expenditure, therefore, was 400*l.* in excess of the actual revenue; but allowance must be made, in comparing these items for unpaid balances in the hands of the treasurer at the end of the year, and if this is done it will be found that the financial condition of the colony was as good as in previous years, and that the receipts for the twelve months under consideration were quite sufficient to meet the ordinary and fixed demands for Government and public works. As I have stated in previous reports it is not possible to obtain an accurate balance sheet up to the 31st of December, owing to the system of keeping the public accounts, which is rendered necessary by the practice of the legislature in voting the annual supplies from the 1st of July, and in any report on the Blue Book, which of necessity deals with each completed year only an approximate comparison of revenue and expenditure can be made.

2. The statements of revenue and expenditure for 1884 and 1885 show as follows :—

Receipts.

	£
1884 - - - - -	28,769
1885 - - - - -	28,693

Expenditure.

	£
1884 - - - - -	29,827
1885 - - - - -	29,396

Considerable agricultural depression prevailed throughout the Islands during the past year, and it is satisfactory to observe that there is only so slight a falling off in the revenue against a decreased expenditure.

3. The amount of the public debt was 5,284*l.*, made up as follows:—

	£
Causeway debentures - - -	3,390
Savings Bank depositors - - -	1,894
	5,284

The original amount raised on causeway debentures was 19,830*l.*, of which 16,440*l.* has been repaid—the average interest on the balance is 4 per cent. The amount originally taken from savings bank deposits was 15,913*l.*, and of this 14,019*l.* has been repaid, interest on the balance being at the rate of 2½ per cent.

The whole of the 500*l.* raised in 1884 for the new Government House has been repaid.

4. The Colonial revenue raised gives an average rate on the estimated civilian population of 1*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* per head, showing a decrease of 4*d.* per head on last year's return. It is fairly satisfactory to observe that as the population increases, and in the face of unfavourable results from agriculture, the individual contributes less towards the maintenance of the State.

It should be mentioned, moreover, that the estimate of taxation does not take into account the Imperial military and naval forces in the command, and the numerous visitors from the neighbouring continent who frequent these islands during the winter months. These all indirectly contribute towards the revenue of the Colony, and, were it possible to arrive at the amount of import duties paid by them, it would be found that the resident civilian pays considerably less than the amount above estimated, and is perhaps as lightly taxed for governmental purposes as any subject of Her Majesty.

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. Subdivided the returns show as follows:—

Revenue.

——	Customs.	Other receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£
Revenue - - -	23,236	5,457	28,693

Expenditure.

——	Salaries.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£
Expenditure - - -	9,763	19,633	29,396

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In comparison with the previous year, 1885 shows the following results:—

	£
In customs a decrease of - -	- 1,068
Other receipts an increase of -	- 992
In salaries an increase of - -	- 125
In miscellaneous a decrease of -	- 485
Net decrease of revenue - -	- 76
Net decrease of expenditure -	- 360

The Receiver-General in his comparative tables shows the following results:—

Ad valorem duty of 5 per cent. in 1885, a decrease of 908*l.*; malt liquor an increase of 476*l.*; cigars, an increase of 65*l.*; rum, a decrease of 354*l.*; spirits, a decrease of 356*l.*; wine an increase of 63*l.*; auction duty, an increase of 118*l.*; light tolls, an increase of 204*l.*; postal revenue, an increase of 745*l.*; and in reimbursements to Government a decrease of 159*l.*

Salaries exceed the previous year by 124*l.*; gratuities by 250*l.*; education by 260*l.*; police by 180*l.*; pilotage by 80*l.*; and roads by 546*l.* On the other hand, 180*l.* was saved on the gaol establishments, 35*l.* on the Postal Department, 165*l.* in the public library, and 578*l.* on works and buildings.

The total decrease on revenue was 84*l.*, and on expenditure 430*l.* 4,031*l.* remained in the Colonial chest at the end of the year, and 7,139*l.* is invested in 3 per cent. consols for the purposes of the new gaol at Hamilton.

6. In the return of Imperial expenditure will be found the following amounts:—

	£
Governor's salary - - -	2,199
Military establishments - - -	99,440

The expenditure on the naval establishments is not returned.

Legislation.

7. The Colonial Legislature sat from the 26th of May until the 11th of November, and 27 Acts were added to the Statute book during that period. A large number of these were simple continuations of existing laws; the House of Assembly clings with supprising tenacity to the system of passing measures, however useful and necessary, for limited periods, and much time is wasted in consequence.

Of the 27 Acts of the session no less than 12 were simply to prevent the expiration of previous laws, and two were continuing Acts with very slight amendments. Of the remaining 13 one was the Annual Supply Act, and the rest call for but little notice.

The salaries of the clerks of Council and Assembly were re-adjusted, and the long services of the Council messenger received recognition in the shape of a slight increase in his very moderate wages.

The Warlike Experiments Act of 1878 was renewed, and remains in force until 1890, the House of Assembly refusing to pass it for an indefinite period.

In 1884, and again during the session of 1885, the Legislature was strongly urged by the Executive to pass a measure re-constructing the police force, and providing for greater efficiency in this most important branch of the public service. The Assembly on each occasion evinced a most decided opposition to the scheme, and the only outcome of the efforts of the Government in this direction was a short Act continuing the Establishment Acts of 1875 and 1879, and slightly increasing the salaries of the three stipendiary magistrates.

One noteworthy and happy result of the session is that the "Act providing for the quarterly payment of public creditors" was allowed to expire.

An attempt was made in the House of Assembly to renew this cumbrous method of auditing public accounts; but the Bill failed to pass its third reading, and the Colony was relieved of a system of audit which was as unsatisfactory as it was obsolete and useless.

Civil Establishment.

8. In the Colonial Civil Service there is but little change to notice.

As above stated slight additions were made to the salaries of some few officers. The office of assistant clerk of the House of Assembly was created under Act No. 9, and Mr. Daniel Edward Seon was appointed to the post. On the resignation of Mr. John H. Trott as marshal in the Vice-Admiralty Court, Mr. Eugenius Jones took his place. During the absence on leave of His Excellency Lieutenant-General Gallwey from June until August, the Government of the Colony was administered by Colonel (now Major-General) F. E. Cox, R.E., and from that officer's retirement until the end of the year Colonel R. M. Sandford, R.E., acted as Governor. The Honourable James Tucker, Receiver General, was acting Colonial Secretary during the absence on leave of the present writer.

Population and Public Health.

9. The Registrar General estimates the civilian population at 15,036, of which 7,331 are males and 7,705 females. The excess of births over deaths during the year was 148; the health of the Colony was fairly good; the total deaths being 387 against a decennial average of 339·4; the number of births registered was 535, and of marriages 103.

The principal medical officer reports of the military forces that:—The general health of the troops was good; average strength, 1,385. Admissions to hospital 684, ratio per 1,000, 493·9, or 123·9 less than the previous year; deaths 18, or a proportion of 13 per 1,000; average daily sick, 38·83; average strength of women, 96, 1 death; average strength of children 175, 6 deaths.

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10. In the sister branch of the service the Deputy Inspector General reports that:—The mean strength of the naval forces at Bermuda for the year was 1,037; this includes 360 dockyard men, 300 men belonging to H.M.S. "Terror," and the men of the fleet (corrected for time).

There has been no epidemic, and the health of Ireland Island has been very good. Only eight cases are classed under zyomtic diseases. One of these terminated in death; the patient was a coloured man belonging to the dockyard who resided at Somerset, where he was attended by a civilian practitioner who reported the death to be from "perforation of the intestine, consequent on "enteric fever;" the other enteric case was an ordinary seamen belonging to H.M.S. "Tamar;" the disease was contracted in England; he did well.

The only other death recorded in the table was from phthisis; the patient came out in H.M.S. "Wye;" he got cold on board, and within three weeks of his arrival he died in hospital.

The most notable feature in the return is the daily increase in the cases of common catarrh; these occurred chiefly in the first quarter of the year; 99 of them were from the dockyard and H.M.S. "Terror." Of the 31 cases of eczema 27 were from the fleet.

Dockyard.

11. The average number of the women and children of the dockyard was 250.

One woman, aged 30, died from broncho-pneumonia.

Three children all under four years of age died.

12. The average rainfall during the year was 6·01 inches per month; greatest in November 12·94 inches; least in June ·26 inches.

Maximum highest reading of the thermometer in August, 90·6° against 70·3° in December; lowest reading in December, 42·5°. The summer of 1885 was an exceptionally hot one, it is very rare to see more than 85° registered during the hottest days of August and September. The rainfall of the year was considerably above the average.

Imports and Exports.

13. The value of the imports into the Islands during 1885, was 227,839*l.*, showing a falling off of 45,601*l.* on the total of 1884. Subdivided the returns show:—

Imports from—

	£
United Kingdom - - -	67,915
British Colonies - - -	23,696
Foreign countries - - -	146,228

The total value of exports from the Colony was 84,596*l.* against 88,622*l.* in the previous year, the amount being made up as follows:—

Exports to—

	£
United Kingdom - - -	2,905
British Colonies - - -	2,021
Foreign countries - - -	79,670

As usual the greater portion of the trade is carried on with the United States of America, the Colony drawing two thirds of its supplies from, and shipping very nearly all its vegetable produce to that country.

14. Agriculture has, as already stated, shown considerable depression during the last two seasons, and many of the farmers have suffered considerably thereby. There is every prospect, however, that the crop season of 1886 will prove more satisfactory, and that the prices of the staple produce of Bermuda will improve in the neighbouring markets of New York and Boston.

Education.

15. The report of the Inspector of Schools is not completed at present, and the Blue Book returns under this head call for no remark from me.

Gaols and Prisoners.

61. The number of persons committed to gaol was 158, against 189 during the previous year; 101 were sent to Hamilton, and 57 to St. Georges; 84 were committed for safe custody, and 74 for the purposes of penal imprisonment; 72 had been previously convicted. 29 were sentenced to terms from one year to five; five for more than three months and less than one year, and 40 for three months or less; 110 of the total were males, 23 females, and 25 juveniles. The daily average in gaol was 25; the number admitted to hospital was 25, and there were no deaths.

17. The cost of the two prisons, including salaries, was 1,753*l.* Of this amount 546*l.* was for the purchase of hard stone, in breaking which the prisoners are largely employed; the stone is used on the Colonial roads.

18. It is very satisfactory to observe the falling off in the number of convictions, and the Colony may congratulate itself on its freedom from crime, the people generally being of an exceptionally law-abiding and peaceful disposition.

19. The criminal statistics for the year give the following results:—

Number of offences reported 384, of which 145 were against the person; eight were for prædial larceny; 51 were against

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property, and 180 were "other offences." 354 cases were disposed of in the magisterial courts; 46 were discharged; 105 were dismissed; 189 persons were summarily convicted, and 14 were sent up to superior courts. Including the number standing over from the previous year 23 criminal cases were tried in the court of general assise, in 11 of which the Crown obtained judgment. For attempt to murder, 1; concealment of birth, 1; "other offences against the person," 4; "other offences against property," 5. In 6 cases there was judgment for the prisoner, and in the same number the case fell through.

Public Institutions.

20. In the lunatic asylum, which is the only public institution in the Colony, the daily average of patients was 32. There were three deaths, and two were discharged as cured, and one as incurable; 33 remained in the asylum at the end of the year, of whom 16 were males and 17 females. The cost of the establishment including salaries of officers was 1,422*l.*; the approximate cost of each patient was 43*l.* 15*s.* per annum.

General.

21. The rebuilding of Trinity Church, Hamilton, was commenced during the year from the plans of a firm of architects in Edinburgh.

The same firm have also designed the new Government House, but their estimates so far exceeded the amount originally voted by the Legislature for the work that its commencement has been delayed until the plans can be reduced.

22. Mr. William Cox, a leading merchant of Hamilton, has furnished me with some very interesting general information, which I think may well be quoted here.

Mr. Cox observes the year 1885 in agriculture exhibited a yield below the average of the preceding five years, with an active demand and high prices. The net earnings of labour were greater in proportion because of the considerable saving in packages, which are of foreign material and always constitute a part of the charges against a crop. Rents were mainly paid, and rents amount to about a fifth of the growers' yield in a year like 1885. The capitalist recovered nothing, so that while the labourers got all that the lands would afford, and the landlords received a rent of about 6 per cent. on the value of their lands, there were no wages for superintendence, and nothing for interest. This discouraged the capitalists, who were hitherto willing to lend to foremen farmers, and it had a tendency to drive that class to emigrate, and leave the lands to labourers alone, from the two causes, their superintendence earned no wages, and capital no interest.

23. Trade generally sympathised with poor returns. The low price of sugar in the West Indies, tremendous out-turns of wheat

in America, led to a quantity of those staples being thrown into this little market under circumstances of the keenest competition; sugar sold at 16*s.* to 18*s.* per 100 lbs. and flour at 25*s.* to 28*s.* per barrel. The dry goods trade drew from the American visitors directly and indirectly, directly from Americans, and indirectly from the increased demands of natives, who, insensibly perhaps, but surely followed the more expensive style of dress and living common to the visitors.

955 adults and 52 children arrived between November 1884 and April 1885. These visitors lived mainly at the two larger hotels, where servants were employed from abroad, so that there was little change in the market for domestic labour.

24. Domestic labour has a peculiarity, it waits for a call most patiently, but when the call comes it shrinks from exertion, or demands a rate of remuneration equal to double pay for all the time "waited out." This is largely seen at St. Georges, where longshoremen wait whole summers and half of winters "out," and depend on recouping all at once from the first wreck.

25. Bermuda may be richer generally than it was at the beginning of the century, and doubtless it has improved in the luxuries of life, but intellectually it misses the world's training the old master mariners obtained. They were to be found in many ports, they were invited by their consignees into good company, and they came home ready to confer and legislate for the best interests of this little place. Meanwhile the crews were disciplined, which made them useful subjects and handy men all of their days, used to be commanded; so civil and law-abiding. Agriculture, by contrast, is so democratic that it often treats the servant better than the master, and the master reads little, sees nothing of the world, and becomes more insular every day.

Recapitulation of Returns.

26. The returns prepared for the Board of Trade's statistical abstract were given in the following table, with which I would beg to close this report:—

Population.

——	Males.	Females.	Total.
31st Dec. 1885 - -	7,331	7,705	15,036

BERMUDA.

	£	s.	d.
Gross amount of public revenue -	28,693	8	0
Gross amount of public expenditure - - - -	29,076	17	8
Customs revenue - -	23,236	2	8
Public debt - - -	5,284	6	9

	Tons.
Total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared - - - -	215,981
Tonnage of British vessels entered and cleared - - - -	183,442
Tonnage of foreign vessels entered and cleared - - - -	32,539
Tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared - - - -	57,450
Tonnage of steam vessels entered and cleared - - - -	158,531
	£
Value of total imports - - -	237,839
Value of imports from the United Kingdom - - - - -	67,915
Value of total exports - - -	84,596
Value of total exports to the United Kingdom - - - - -	2,905

I have, &c.
(Signed) CAVENDISH BOYLE,
Colonial Secretary

His Excellency
Lieut.-General T. L. Gallwey, R.E.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Bermuda.

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